

Wrestling

**SPORTS REVIEW
INTERVIEW:
EDDIE
GILBERT**
**AREA CLOSEUP:
MAKIN' MAYHEM
IN MACON**

Ric Flair Topples Crusher Blackwell:

"I'M WRESTLING LIKE A CHAMPION AGAIN"

Barry Windham Inches Closer To The NWA Title:

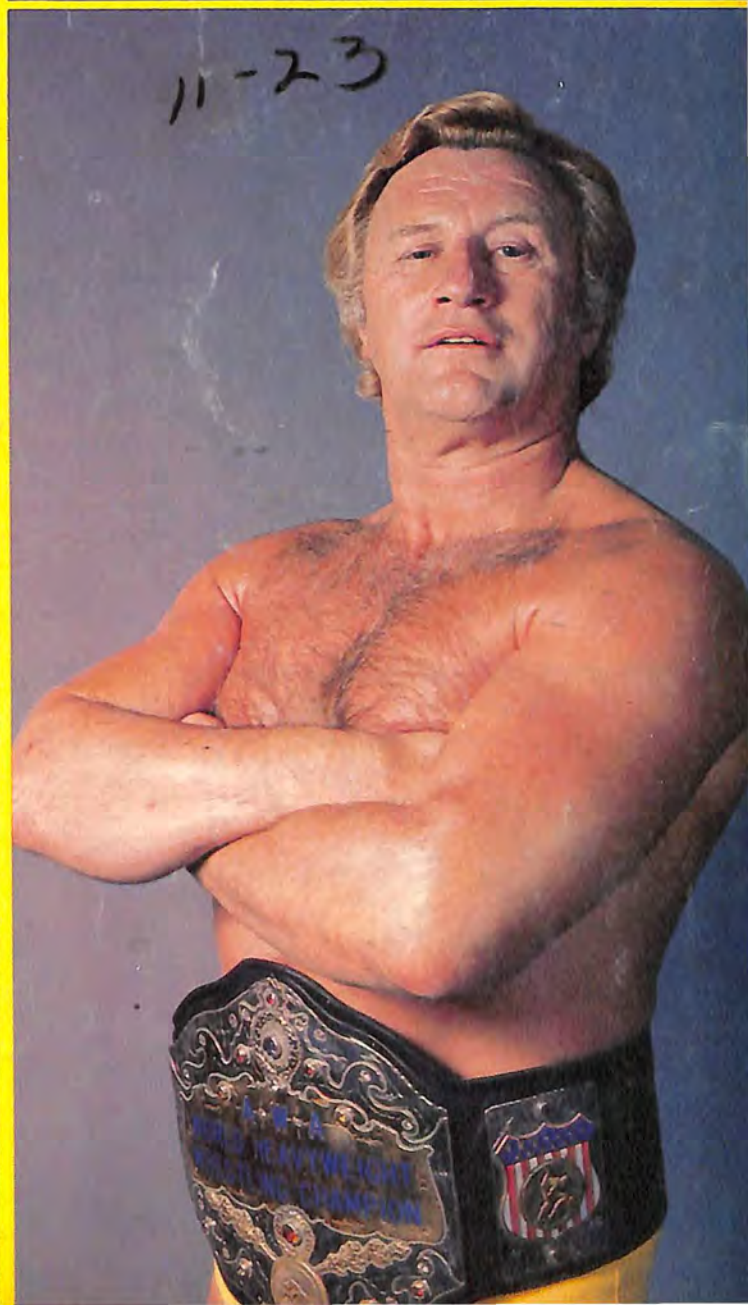
HOW MUCH LONGER CAN RACE HOLD HIM OFF?

The 10-Year Chase Is Over:

**ANDRE FINALLY
CORNERS ABDULLAH**

Nick Bockwinkel's Championship Diary

**A YEAR OF HELL,
A YEAR OF GLORY**





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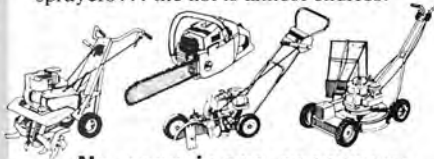
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SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING is published monthly by G.C. London Publishing Corp., Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Single copy price: \$1.50. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine can be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

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SLAUGHTER SUPPORTER

I want to extend my appreciation to Managing Editor Stu Saks for the excellent job on his interview with Sgt. Slaughter in the November 1983 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

I always felt that Slaughter was a top-notch singles wrestler. When he was in the Mid-Atlantic, he was

tied up in tag team matches all the time, with Don Kernodle as a partner. It seemed obvious to me that Kernodle, a wrestler far inferior to Slaughter, was holding the sergeant back from the success that was due him. Eventually, the team lost the NWA World tag team belts to Jay Youngblood and Rick Steamboat, but as far as I'm concerned it was



Sgt. Slaughter applies a front facelock (choke?) on Harley Race. Reader Larry Murphy is convinced that Slaughter will demote WWF champion Bob Backlund.

Kernodle who lost the belts.

But now Slaughter is in the WWF and he's a top contender for Bob Backlund's WWF title. Backlund has already cheated his way out of matches with Slaughter several times, but I'm convinced that as soon as the rugged ex-Marine can get another title shot, he'll be successful in eliminating Howdy Doody Backlund from the championship spot.

A salute to Sgt. Slaughter, the next WWF champion!

LARRY MURPHY
East Meadow, NY

BEST TAG TEAM EVER?

I am writing this letter to express my disappointment in the editorial staff of *Sports Review Wrestling*.



The Road Warriors—Hawk and Animal—pose with their National tag team belts. "Mailbag" contributor Eddie Thomas believes this vicious duo is the best in wrestling history.

Why haven't you published any stories on the best tag team to ever hit professional wrestling? Of course I'm talking about none other than The Road Warriors.

There isn't another tag team in wrestling today that can defeat The Road Warriors. Hawk and Animal comprise the meanest, the strongest, the most powerful team in the sport.

Jack and Jerry Brisco? Mere weaklings. Bob and Brad Armstrong? Not a chance. Ken Patera
(Continued on page 50)

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my method of **DYNAMIC-TENSION** starts giving you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed.

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THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'



THE TATTLER

DALLAS, TX—Freebird Terry Gordy has returned to the World Class area after a tour of Japan and is claiming that he has learned a maneuver that will cripple each of the Von Erich brothers.

"These wimpy little kids with their clawhold," Gordy laughed, "they think they're so tough. Well, when I was in Japan I learned something that will have each of those punks choking and gagging like crazy. I'm teaching it to Michael Hayes and Buddy Roberts and soon all of us



TERRY GORDY

Freebirds will be using the deadly Oriental spike!"

The Oriental spike is similar in nature to the Asiatic Spike often used by current WWF Intercontinental champion Magnificent Muraco. David Von Erich claims that he isn't worried at all about the maneuver.

"You see, before they can use that kind of a maneuver," David explained, "they've got to get one of us in a position where it can be applied. That's easier said than done. Gordy claims this new spike maneuver is better than the clawhold, but we'll see about that. I'll place my good right hand claw against any other hold or maneuver anytime he wants!"

—Virginia W. Sloan

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ST. LOUIS, MO—A recent match between Hulk Hogan and NWA World champion Harley Race had St. Louis fans speculating that Hogan might make the move to compete in the NWA permanently.

"That's only a rumor," Hogan said. "I actually had two reasons for traveling to St. Louis. First of all, I wanted to wrestle Race for the NWA World title, and that was the only open date he had. Secondly, Bockwinkel wouldn't

(Continued on page 54)

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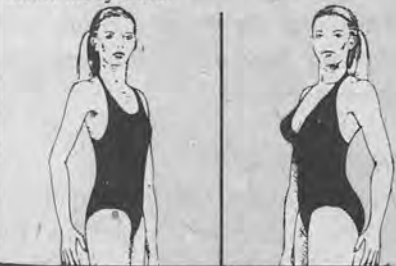
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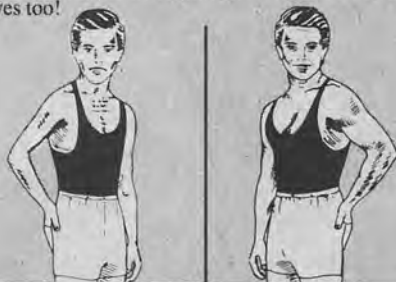
Why worry and hide in baggy clothes when you could be showing off a beautiful body! You'll see what a difference **Body Builder-P** can make in just one week! You can look forward to those feminine curves... see the seductive new you blossom right before your eyes... and just as important... right before his eyes too!



FOR MEN

Spindly legs... weakling arms... scrawny chest... don't suffer when you can do something about it and become the man you want to be.

Women love men with some "meat on their bones." And you'll feel a new sense of pride and self confidence when your fantastic full, masculine body appears quickly... right before your eyes... and just as important... right before her eyes too!



WHICH BODY DO YOU WANT?!

WOMEN—If you picked the curvaceous, full figured body, but right now your chest is too flat, your legs are too thin, and your hips don't exist, **Body Builder-P** will change your life!

THIN and BONY to BODY BEAUTIFUL



Chris Sabatino, 1981, Class I NBA, Teenage Mr. America

"I was down to 135 lbs. of skin and bone when I built up 37 lbs. of muscle and became a champion. Now, you can use my **Body Builder-P** as part of your exercise program to gain weight and put some flesh on those bones. Girls, add curves, fill out, and get the figure you always wanted. Men, add inches of muscle and get an impressive manly body. You can do it! But don't wait. Order NOW!"

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Body Builder-P is used to gain weight (not fat) and build body mass as part of the exercise program of champion bodybuilders. Imagine what it will do for you, whether you need curves or muscles.

This high powered natural food supplement contains rich protein, concentrated and fortified with 12 vitamins and 7 minerals, as well as all 8 essential amino acids. It blends into a delicious shake with juice or milk. And, it gives you added energy and leaves you feeling great!

You'll be amazed! This incredible formula goes to work immediately. Start to see results THE VERY FIRST DAY! In just a few days, you'll be looking at yourself in the mirror and you'll start to understand the incredible power of **Body Builder-P**! Then you'll get on the scale and realize that you've added pounds and pounds of impressive, attractive flesh.

So, don't wait even one more minute. Order your **Body Builder-P** NOW! If for any reason you're not 100% satisfied, simply return the unused portion within 30 days for a prompt refund (less p&h, of course), NO QUESTIONS ASKED! Don't delay. Mail in the coupon today!

MEN—If you picked the handsome, manly body, but right now you look like a skinny weakling, **Body Builder-P** will make you the man you want to be!

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The Body Shoppe, Dept. PS1346
P.O. Box 1049, Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

Yes, I want to gain weight fast! Rush my **Body Builder-P** as indicated below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I can return the unused portion within 30 days for a prompt refund, NO QUESTIONS ASKED! My check or M.O. is enclosed (NY residents add sales tax)

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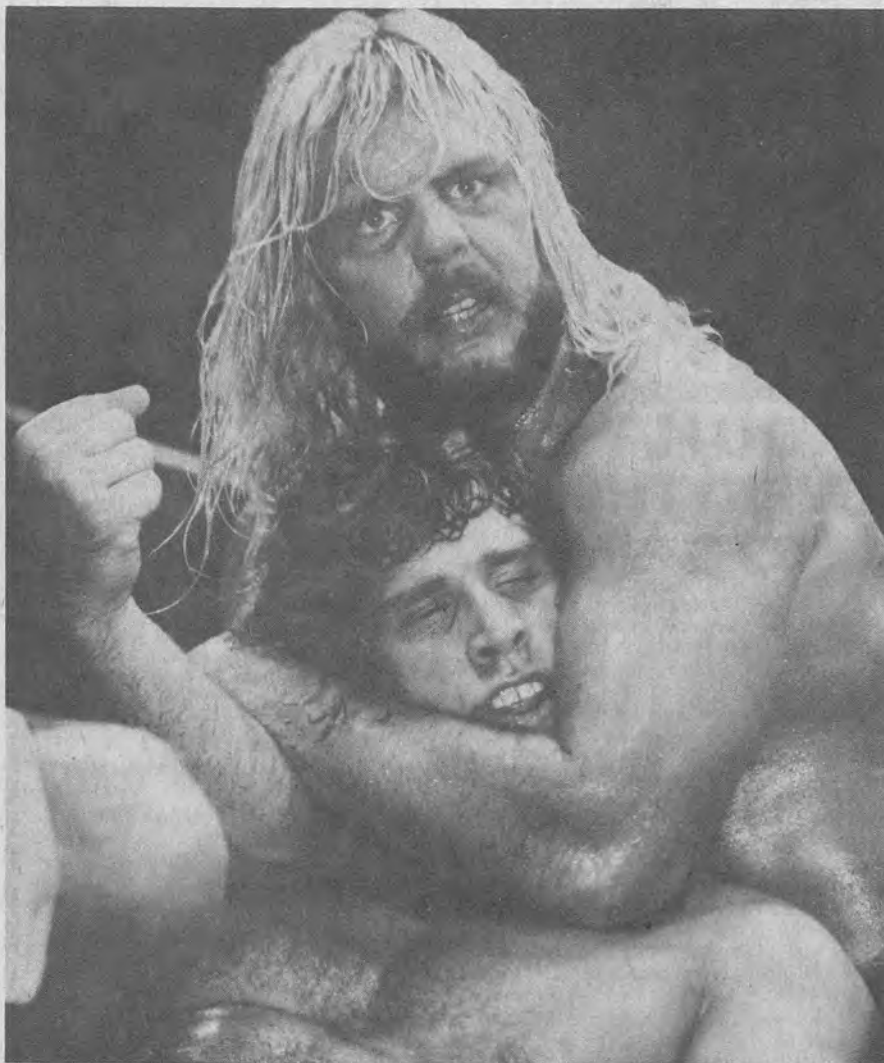
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The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!



Michael Hayes glares out at the crowd as he applies a chinlock on Kerry Von Erich. Most of the fans would be voicing their disapproval, but not Karen Dartner of Dallas. She loves Hayes and The Freebirds.

THE QUESTION:

"What was the most exciting moment you have ever witnessed in a wrestling match?"

THE ANSWERS:

Karen Dartner, Dallas: "Anytime I see The Freebirds it's exciting for me. I think they're great. Michael Hayes has to be the most incredible man in wrestling. Just the way he moves sends chills up my spine. I'll never forget watching Mike, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts regain the six-man tag team title from the Von Erichs. That was exciting. Just seeing The Freebirds in the ring with that trophy again made me scream. They are just excellent."

Ralph Benjamin, White Plains, NY: "It had to be at Madison Square Garden about 1½ years ago, during the Bob Backlund-Jimmy Snuka Cage Match. Backlund was lying on the mat, and the second I saw Snuka look up at the top of the cage, I knew what was going to happen. He climbed up to the top turnbuckle, and then he started climbing up the cage. Everyone was watching him. Then he
(Continued on page 56)

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes... Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that your serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do... go wherever you wish... do whatever you wish... without being detected... watch the antics of others behind closed doors... hear private conversations... make time run forward or backward... read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror"... find out what really happened in history... make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER...

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
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- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps you're really sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it's even a pet that needs help! With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

FREE... The Witches Protection Amulet For Just Examining The Witch Book...

When you receive your copy of THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, we will send you the witches protection pentagon medallion (See p. 26) that will protect you from evil. Whether you keep the book or not, this handsome, powerful amulet is yours as a gift. So send in this no-risk coupon right now!



Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR NO-RISK COPY!

Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!

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Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!



From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

JAMES J. DILLON has always prided himself on his business finesse and his financial expertise. But recent events point to the possible conclusion that Dillon has made a drastic error in management by breaking his exclusive contract with Ron Bass.

FACT: J.J. Dillon claims that he is managing Ron Bass exclusively. This means that Dillon is legally bound by contract to concentrate all of his professional managerial efforts on Bass, and not to negotiate in any way, shape, or form with any other professional wrestler.

FACT: Gentleman Jim Holliday, a close friend of Dillon's, recently entered the Florida area and obtained the contracts of Elijah Akeem and Kareem Muhammad, both of whom were dropped by Dillon when he signed exclusively with Bass.

FACT: Holliday has brought Abdullah the Butcher into the state. Obtaining the contract of Abdullah the Butcher is something very few managers would have the personal contacts, much less the money, to accomplish. Most observers of the Florida wrestling scene feel that only one manager has the resources



Although Bass looks cheerful enough while posing with J.J. Dillon and Jos LeDuc, he has expressed concern over his manager's recent business practices. It's possible that Dillon is violating his exclusive contract with Bass.

to sign Abdullah: J.J. Dillon.

FACT: If Dillon did negotiate with Abdullah, he would be breaking his contract with Ron Bass and would be open to lawsuit. Any legal action against Dillon could cost him a great deal of money and time, and would drastically hurt his credibility. With Dillon involved in legal struggles instead of ring struggles, a managerial power struggle

might develop that could strip Dillon of the power base he has worked so hard to establish.

J.J. Dillon may be many things, but he is not a stupid man. The arrival of Gentleman Jim Holliday indicates that there is a strong possibility that Dillon is legally honoring his contract with Bass, while in actuality he is using Holliday as a

(Continued on page 58)



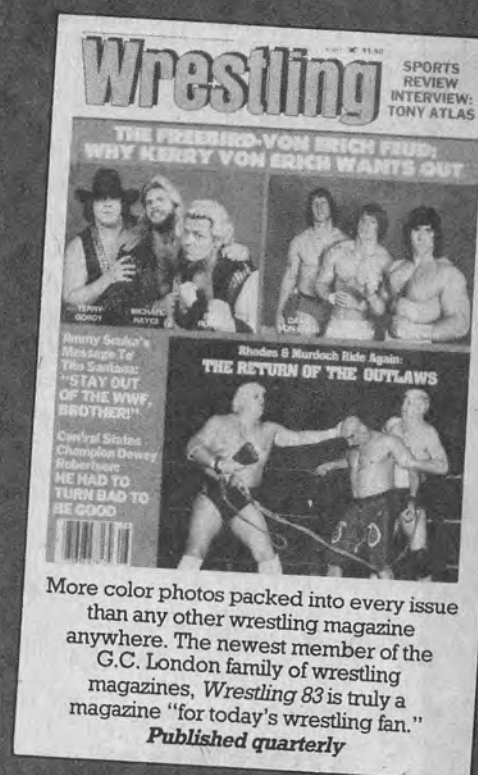
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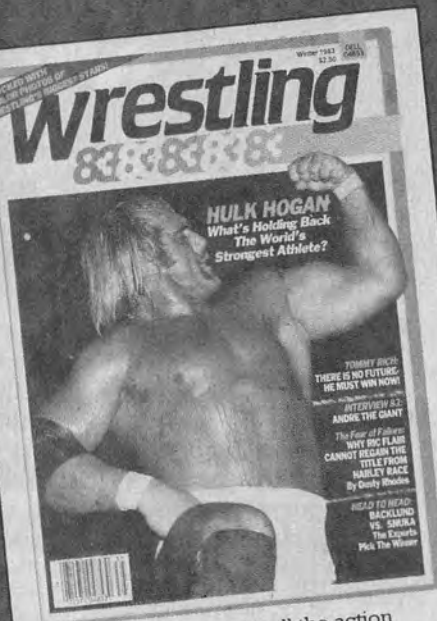
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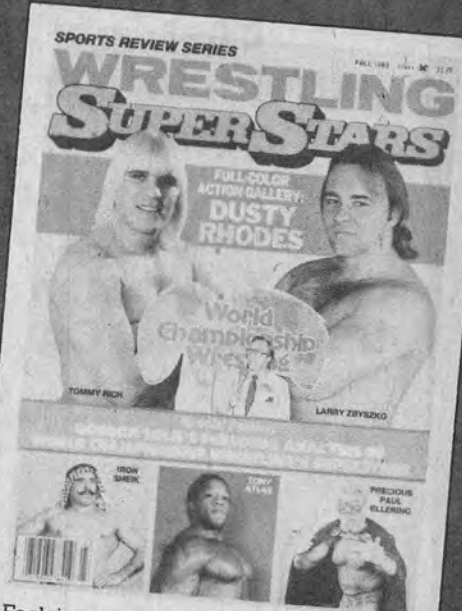
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TOP WRESTLE

YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS

Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

**The "Question of the Month" is:
"What motivates you to give your best performance in the ring?"**

**Submitted by:
Gary Youngman
Burlingame, CA**



RON BASS

"I spent a long time in this business trying to convince myself that I wrestled for the fans, or for a chance to wrestle for the world championship, but I've gotten smart lately. The only thing that motivates me these days is money. Show me the green and I'll beat up anybody."



MR. WRESTLING II

"Well, of course, I want to do well for myself. I take great pride in my ring abilities. But there's another thing. I want to do my best to uphold the tradition of the great masked wrestlers. We have a great past, and I feel that the present and the future are in my hands."



SUPER DESTROYER

"This is a ridiculous question. I know a lot of these phony fan favorites will say that the fans motivate them, and they want to win for all those people who support them. Bull! Every wrestler has the same reason for wanting to win, and that's money. Don't believe anything else you hear."



ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL

"Do you really want to know what motivates me? I don't think you do, but I'll tell you anyway. I like to hurt people. I like it when my boot hits flush into my opponent's face. I like making punks bleed, and the ring is the only place I can do it legally. Thank God for professional wrestling."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



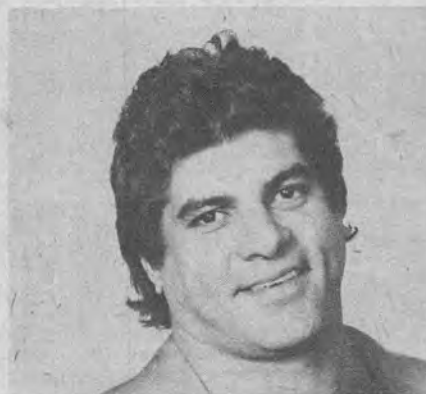
KEVIN VON ERICH

"I think the first thing that motivates me is myself. I want to do my best. But there is another consideration. You can't overlook the fact that the NWA World title means a lot of prestige in the sporting world. Every match I win brings me closer to that belt. That might be the most important motivator."



RIC FLAIR

"I have all the money I could ever spend, I've been all the places I have ever wanted to go to, and I've had the ultimate success in wrestling. But once you lose the World championship, there's something inside you that pushes you to go get it back. That's what motivates me, and, Harley Race, that's what's gonna help me get my championship back."



MAGNIFICENT MURACO

"What motivates me? You mean, what makes me do what I do? I had no control over this. It was destiny. It was what *they* wanted for me from the beginning. I am *their* gift to professional wrestling, and what a gift I am! What would wrestling be without me?"



BOB BACKLUND

"I think some professional wrestlers consider what they do a job. Sure, I get paid for wrestling, but I consider defending the WWF title a duty. I have dedicated my life to upholding the great tradition of the WWF championship, and I will continue to work my hardest to do just that."



NICK BOCKWINKEL

"Obviously, I don't need the money. I could retire today and live off of my investments. But I would feel sorry for the fans who would never see me wrestle. They have a right to view perfection. So, I guess you could say that I wrestle for the fans. I'm so benevolent, sometimes even I can't believe it."



BUTCH REED

"You know what motivates me? A fool like Junkyard Dog who claims that he's the *king* of wrestling. Well, who died and left him king? I'm bigger, better, and smarter than that Dog, and I prove it every time I step into the ring. Dog, you better watch your back, 'cause I'm gonna snatch that crown off your head."

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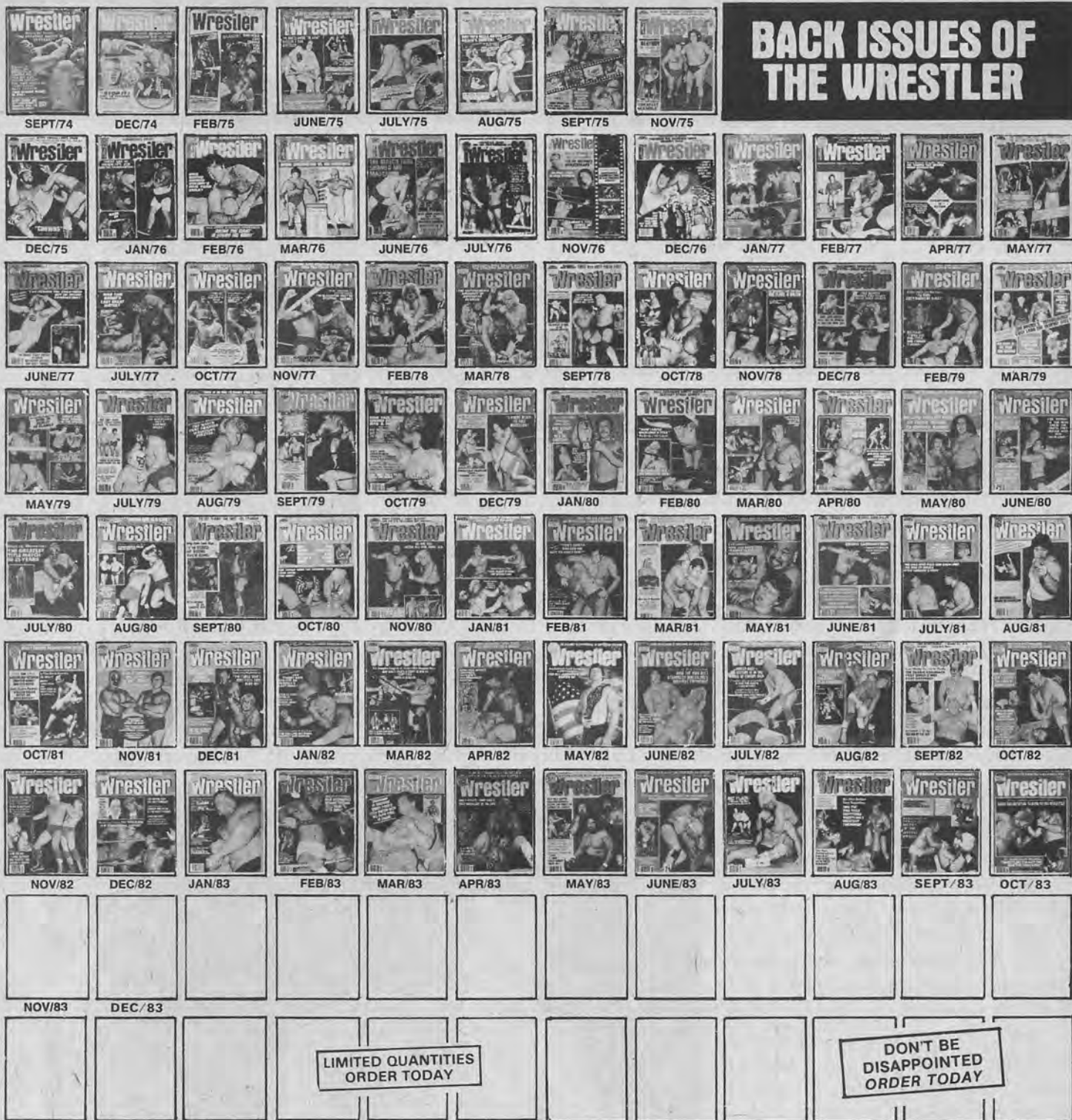
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WRESTLER

OF THE MONTH

BRETT WAYNE

IT SEEMS LIKE only yesterday that he was being described as a bright newcomer to wrestling. Indeed, when he was contacted for some information for a feature in the debut issue of our new sister publication *Wrestling 83*, he described his immediate goal in professional wrestling as achieving a victory over a top 10 heavyweight.

Brett Wayne would probably have been the last person in the world to predict that by the time that magazine hit the newsstands, he would have achieved what he then called his long-range goal: winning the National heavyweight championship.

There was no hesitation at all in choosing Brett Wayne as this issue's "Wrestler of the Month." As the new National heavyweight champion, Wayne has earned the right to be recognized as one of the sport's top stars. And the 23-year-old native of St. Petersburg, Florida, has nothing but an extremely bright future ahead of him.

"It seems like everything is happening to me so fast," Wayne told *Sports Review Wrestling* in a recent interview. "One minute I'm ranked number nine in the Georgia area, and the next minute I've got fans cheering me like crazy and I'm wearing the National belt around my waist. It's very exciting, but it's also a little scary!"

In what way does Brett find being National champion scary?

"Well, I'm still pretty young," he said, "I've only been wrestling professionally for about four years, and in the back of my mind I'm wondering if it's not too much too

soon for me. That part of it is a little scary.

"And by the same token, having everyone aiming at me now that I'm champion, being the number one target on the Georgia area hit list, so to speak, is also kind of scary to me," Wayne continued. "I hope I can live up to the obligations of the title, because I really want to dedicate this first title reign of mine to the fans themselves. They've shown tremendous support for me ever since I started wrestling professionally, and if it weren't for them, I might have given up before I ever really got started."

While the fans have helped Brett during his matches by offering their total support, it was Mr. Wrestling



II who helped Brett get the title match with Larry Zbyszko. Wrestling II had taken Zbyszko's championship belt some time back, claiming that Larry had taken the title illegally.

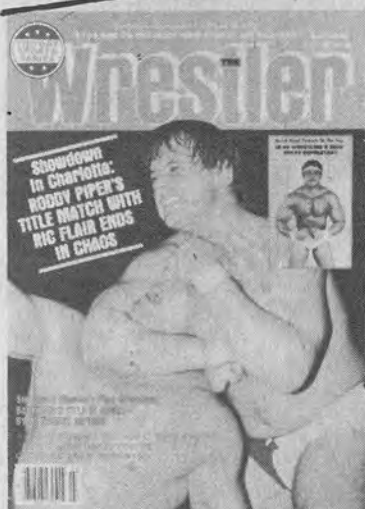
"Zbyszko was hounding me like crazy with his lawyers trying to get

(Continued on page 20)



Brett Wayne accomplished what many experts feel is the upset of the year when he defeated Larry Zbyszko for the National heavyweight title. Wayne is the youngest man ever to hold the National title.

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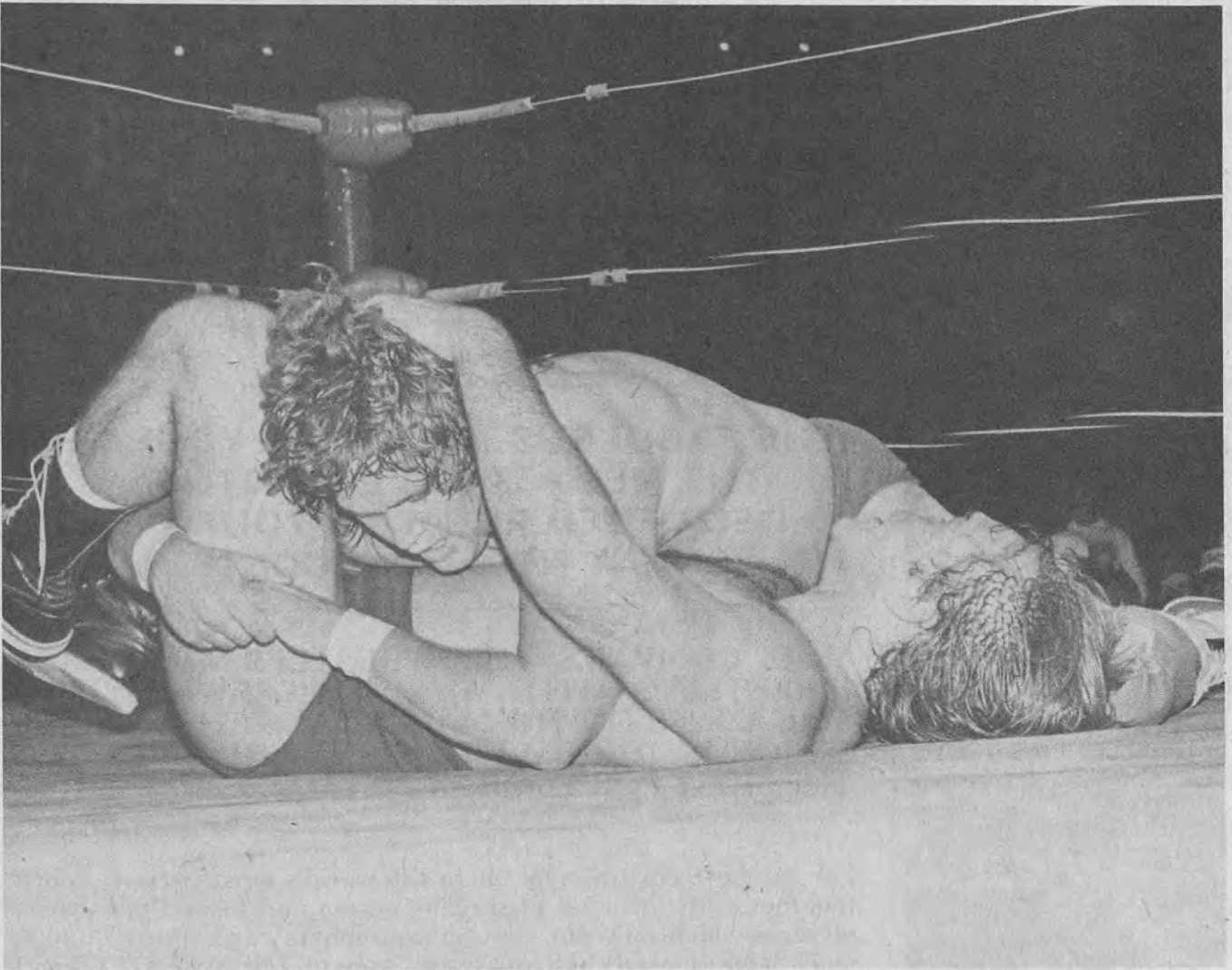
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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 18)



the National belt back," Wrestling II explains, "and quite frankly I was getting sick of it. It reached the point where we were at a standoff: I had the belt and the respect of the fans, while Zbyszko was officially being recognized as champion.

"So I made a deal with Zbyszko," Wrestling II continued. "I would give him the belt if he would agree to give a National title championship match to Brett Wayne."

Why Brett Wayne and not, say, Tommy Rich or Pistol Pez Whatley?

"Well, I sort of took Wayne under my wing, you might say," Wrestling II said. "I like the kid, and I recognized in him the fact that he had all the ability and skill necessary to capture the champion-

Wayne is very grateful to Mr. Wrestling II for not only getting him the title match but for training him as well. Brett is also grateful to the fans for their tremendous support.

ship—he'd already pinned Zbyszko in a non-title televised match—but all he needed was some motivation. Tommy doesn't need motivation; hell, he's a former NWA champion, he'll be all right. And Pez got his motivation from Junkyard Dog. Brett needed a shove; I gave it to him."

Wrestling II worked with Brett in the gym, helped him prepare for the title match, offered him a few pointers, and provided him with the self-confidence necessary to defeat Zbyszko.

"What a feeling it was," Brett said, describing what it was like when he realized he had become

the new National champion. "I couldn't believe it! There were chills running down my spine and I wanted to scream and I couldn't talk all at the same time. "Everyone who was at ringside—Wrestling II and Tommy and Ronnie Garvin and Pez—they were all there giving me their support, and they all ran in and hugged me and slapped me on the back and congratulated me. It was amazing. I'll never forget that moment as long as I live."

And although Brett had great support from his fellow wrestlers and from the fans, he can always take pride in the fact that no one—absolutely no one—helped him pin Larry Zbyszko's shoulders to the mat. That's one thing he accomplished all by himself. □

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INTERVIEW

EDDIE GILBERT

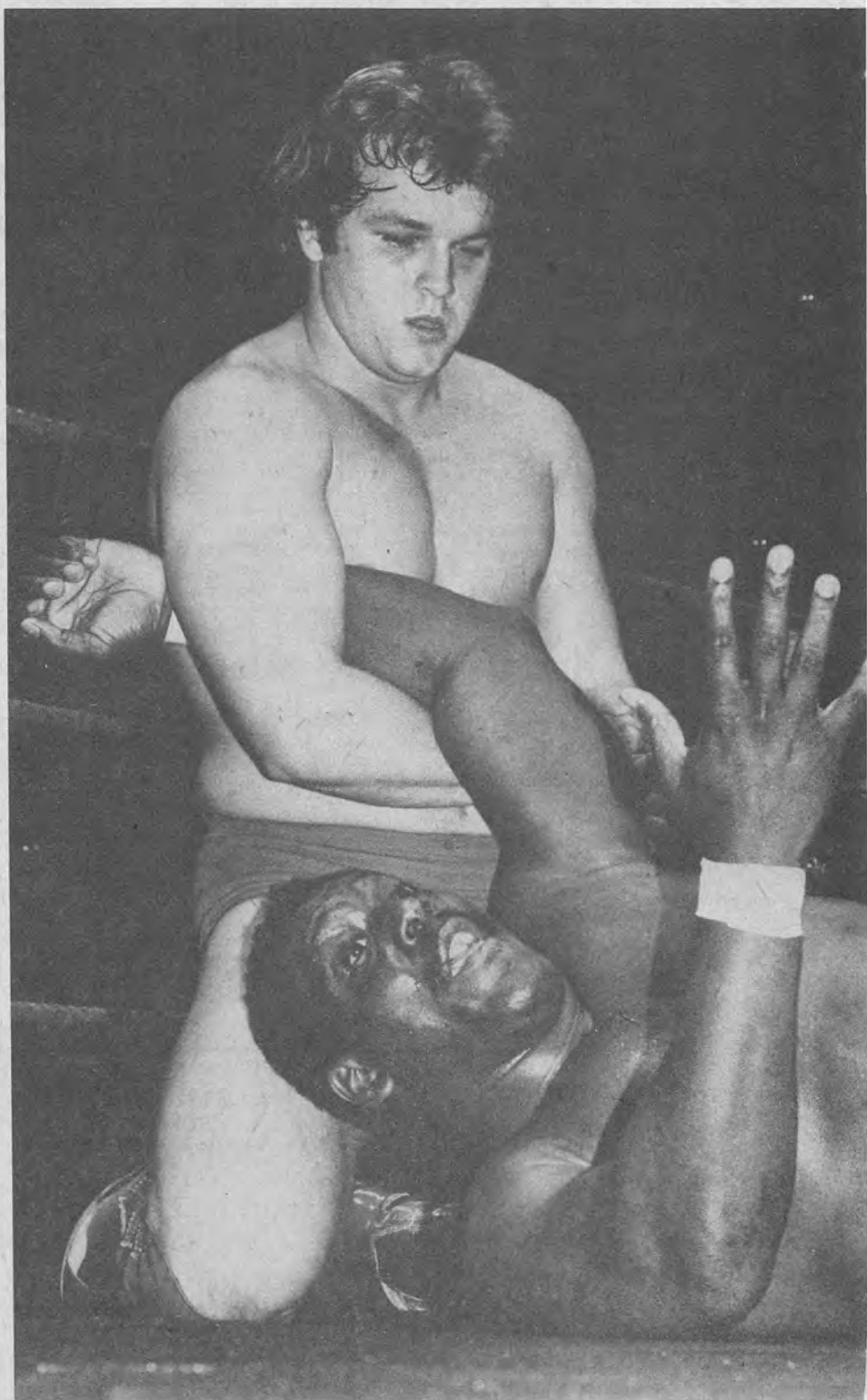
The past few months have been a living hell for Eddie Gilbert.

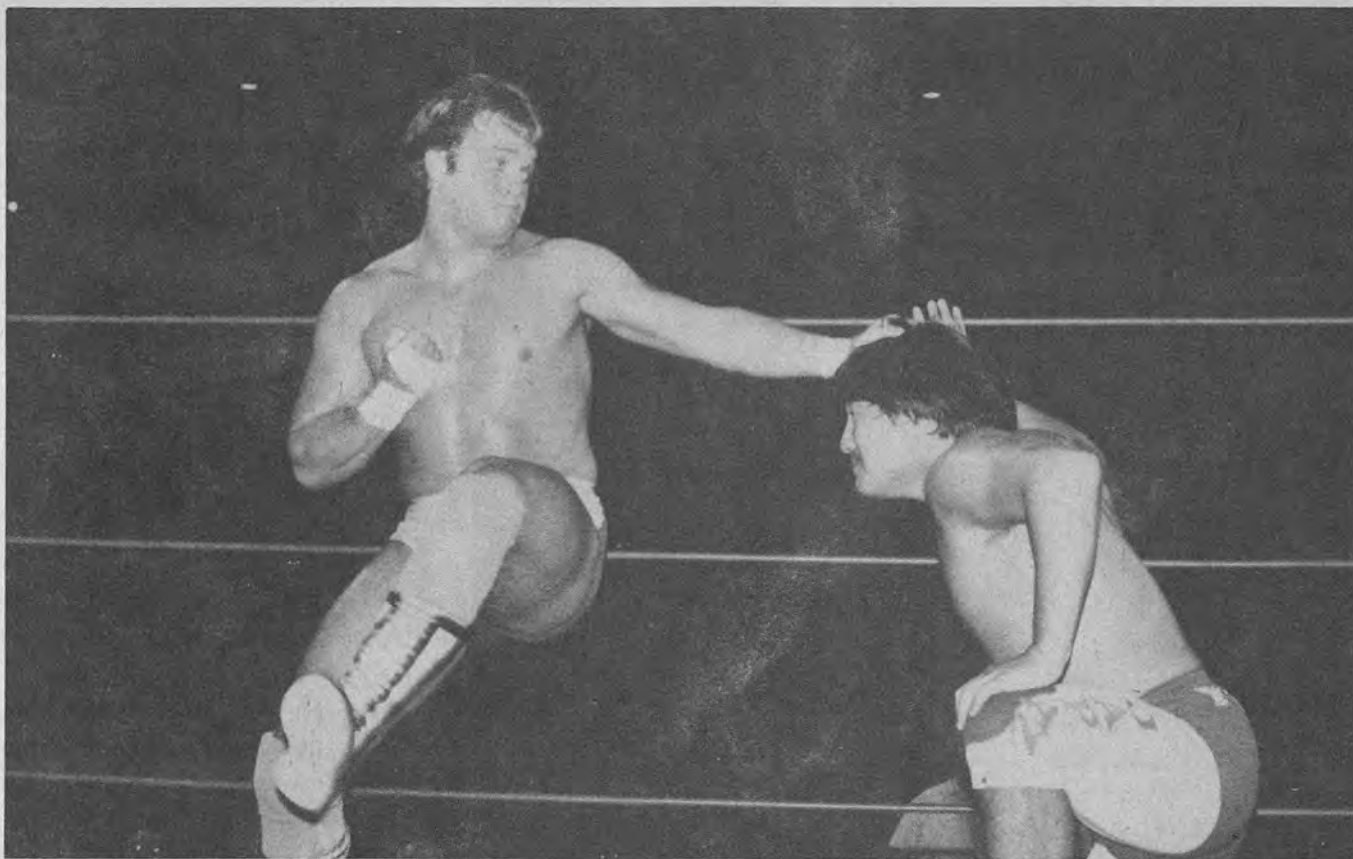
Late in May, Eddie was almost killed in a fiery automobile crash. His car smashed into the back of flatbed truck carrying a 2½-ton Army truck and burst into flames. He was lucky to escape with his life, but he nevertheless remained in the hospital for several months with a broken vertebra in his neck and several minor traumatic injuries to his spine and back.

Gilbert was understandably cautious upon making his return to competition in the WWF in September. He could hardly have been prepared for the brutally sadistic attack he would suffer just weeks after his return.

Gilbert was wrestling Masked Superstar in a televised match that took place in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Superstar, familiar with what had happened to Gilbert several months earlier, decided to capitalize on his misfortune. The masked man delivered a corkscrew neckbreaker that had Gilbert howling in pain. Fans screamed for the match to be stopped, and Gilbert was in no condition to surrender.

Superstar delivered yet another neckbreaker, this time executed upon the concrete floor surrounding the ring. Gilbert was taken to the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center for treatment. A few days later, Associate Editor Craig Peters came





Gilbert would prefer to wrestle a scientific style against a man like S.D. Jones (opposite left) than to brawl with a man like Mr. Fuchi (above). WWF champion Bob Backlund has become very close with the young wrestler (below).



to the hospital to interview him.

"I was amazed at Gilbert's attitude when I spoke with him," Peters said. "He was in extremely good humor, which was amazing considering what he had been through. Frankly, I'm surprised he consented to an interview at all, but I suppose he had a lot of anger he wanted to get off his chest. I can't say I blame him."

Q: First of all, Eddie, and most important, how are you feeling?

A: Well, I'm still pretty sore, and it hurts to turn my neck like this, but the doctor says I'm coming along fine. Superstar's neckbreaker aggravated the injury from the car accident, but fortunately it didn't actually do any more real damage. I was lucky. It could have paralyzed me permanently, I could have been in a wheelchair for the rest of my life. Fortunately, I just have to spend some time in the hospital, stay in bed, get a lot of rest, and let myself heal. After this past summer, I've gotten kind of used to that!

Q: Does it scare you to think what might have happened?

A: A little. I don't like to think about a life where I couldn't wrestle, but if I was meant to have been paralyzed, I would like to think that I could have dealt with it in a healthy way.

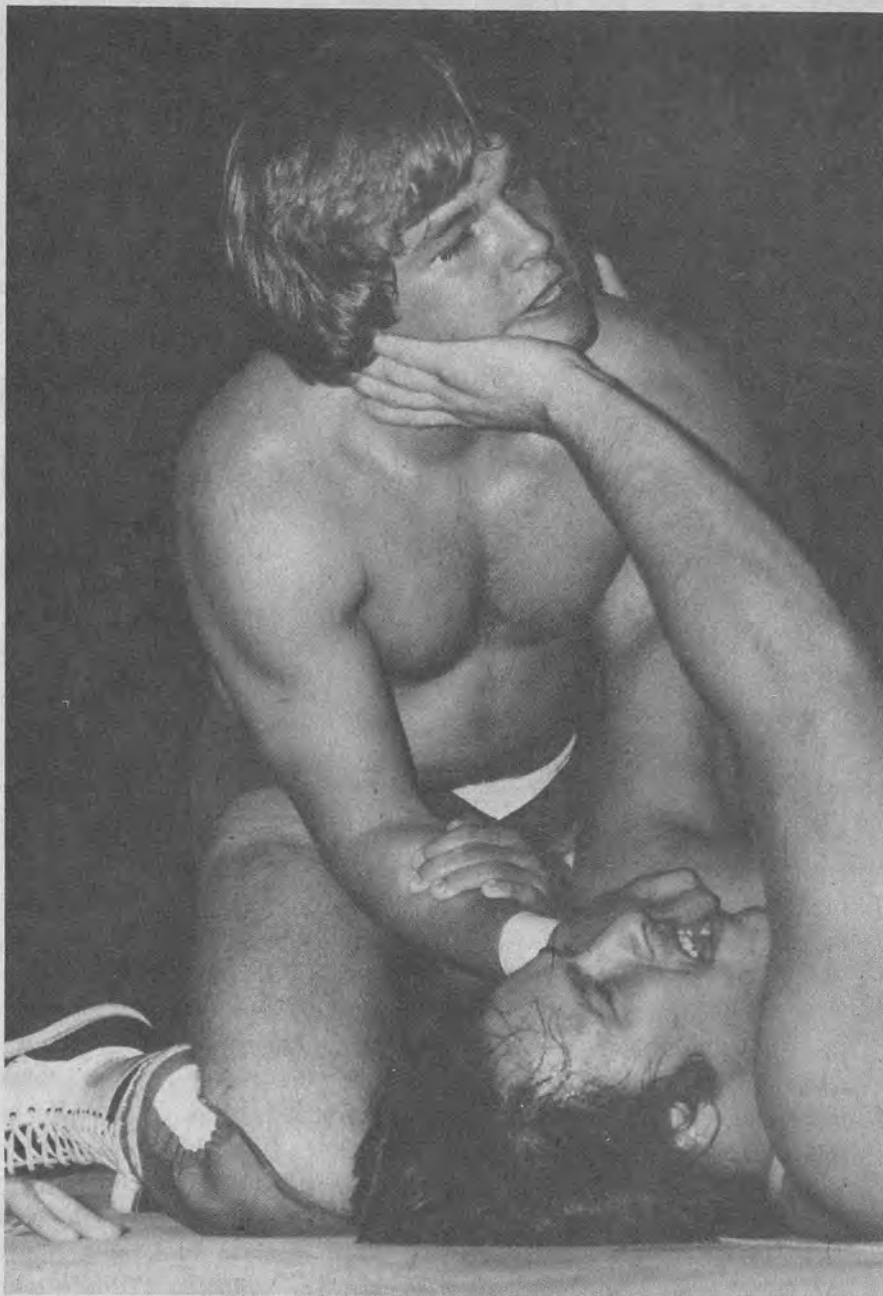
Q: What do you think you might have done with yourself?

A: Well, I don't think I would have turned my back on wres-

tlng entirely. I probably would have worked with youngsters, training them on the amateur level. You know, it's an interesting question, and actually it's one that I've had to think about a lot this year. A lot of people take things like being able to walk to the corner for a paper or being able to turn your head to look at a pretty girl for granted. I don't take those things for granted anymore. I have an incredible amount of respect for people who have experienced the loss of these small pleasures in life and have actually come out stronger for that fact.

Q: You're very lucky to have escaped serious injury from Superstar's multiple neckbreakers. Actually, I never viewed him as so brutal a man. He's rough in the ring, true, but I never believed him to be so much of a sadist! Why do you think he attacked you the way he did?

A: Who can say? Maybe he thought I was an easy mark, a way for him to build a quick



Gilbert, the son of professional wrestler Tommy Gilbert, has been around the sport all his life. Until this year, he never gave any thought about what his life would be if he couldn't wrestle (above) or have the capability to move about (top right).



A: Yeah, Bob was a great help to me. He's a great friend. He rode in the ambulance with me all the way to the hospital, and he stayed with me until the doctor examined me and gave us his prognosis. Bob's been great. It's like Superstar attacked him instead of me. He's been visiting with me every day while I've been here. He's been fantastic, really helping me to pull through this thing.

Q: I know there's something you want to say to our readers, and I think this would be the time to do it, Eddie.

A: All right. I just want to thank everyone who sent me cards and flowers and get well wishes. Earlier in the year, after the accident, I received over 7,000 cards and letters. Already, after the Superstar incident, more than 1,000 cards, letters, and telegrams have flooded the hospital. It's a great help to know that all you fans are out there pulling for me. I want you all to know that I appreciate your wishes and that each and every one of your notes, even though I can't answer them all, help me to get through every single day I'm here in the hospital. Thank you all. □

reputation with the WWF fans. He knew about my accident, and he took advantage of it. That was obvious by the way he concentrated on my neck. I've got to tell you, Craig, I can't remember when I was in so much pain before in my life.

Q: Looking back on the incident, don't you think you might have taken on an opponent of Superstar's caliber too soon after your return?

A: A lot of people warned me about the man before the match. They told me not to

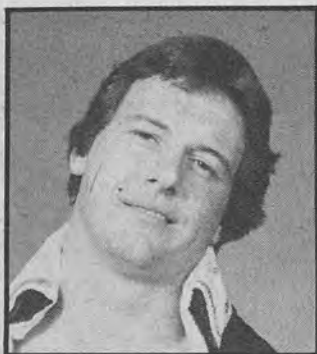
wrestle him. But I had been back for a few weeks and I was wrestling to my full capacity. I felt fine. My only obstacle was a mental one. Sooner or later I would have to take on a man like Superstar to see if I had come back all the way. Your question is a valid one, Craig, but the answer is no. I have absolutely no regrets about my decision to wrestle Masked Superstar when I did.

Q: I noticed that Bob Backlund accompanied you to the hospital after the incident.

THIS MONTH IN...

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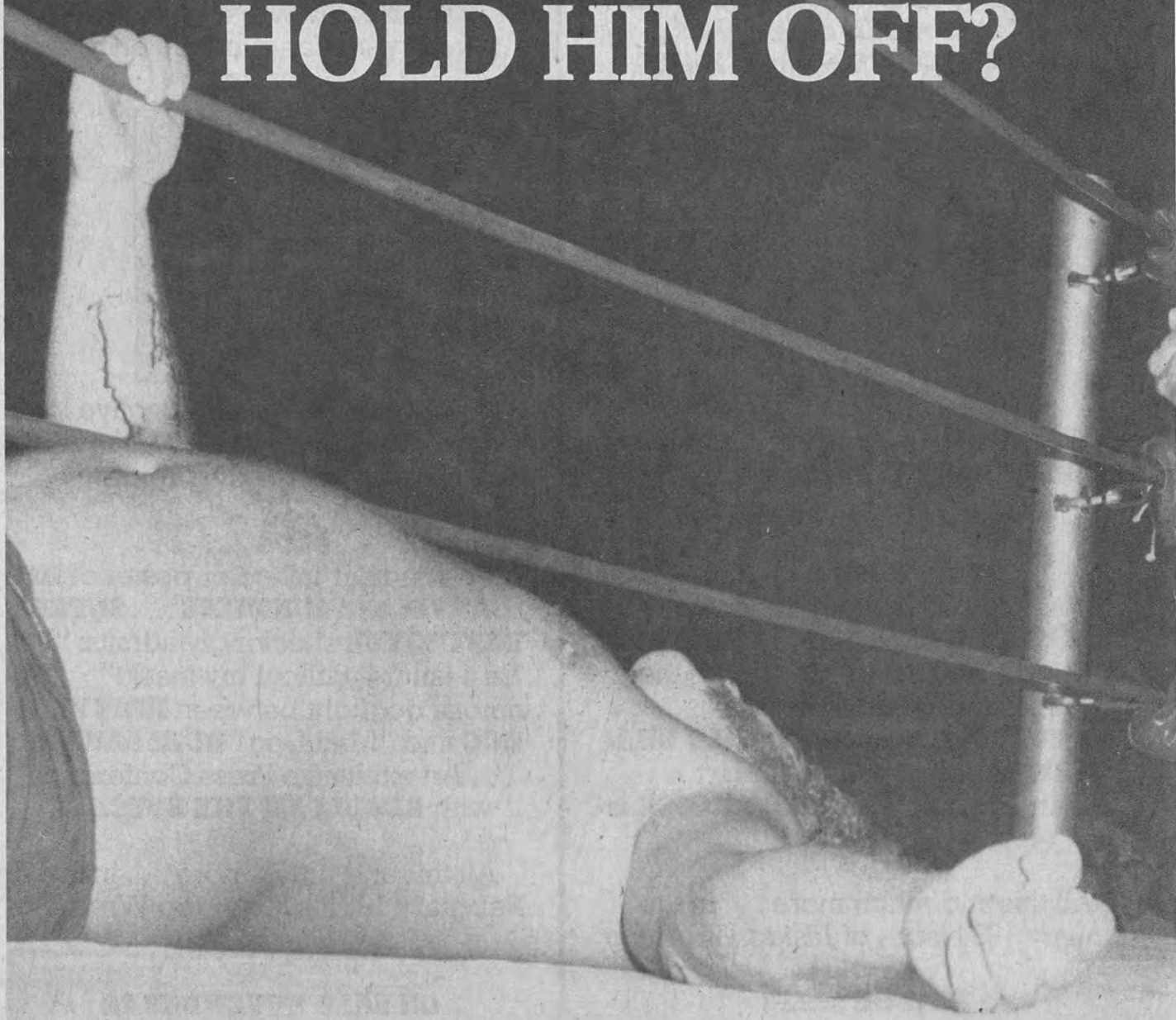
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ON SALE NOVEMBER 22

Barry Windham Inches Closer To The NWA Title:

**HOW MUCH LONGER
CAN RACE
HOLD HIM OFF?**



In the race to become number one contender for the NWA World title, Barry Windham has remained a frontrunner for the past several months. He's already defeated NWA World champion Harley Race in a non-title match, and experts around the world have predicted that Windham will be the next NWA titlist. Race, however, is determined to make sure Windham doesn't succeed

Photos by Bill Otten



Tampa, Florida:

BARRY WINDHAM TIED the laces on his sneakers as he prepared to leave the Tampa Sportatorium. He had just achieved a pinfall victory over NWA World champion Harley Race, but his gymbag did not contain the NWA belt. Nevertheless, the Florida State champion was very pleased with himself.

"I feel great about how I wrestled today," Windham said. "It took me completely by surprise. I wasn't expecting to wrestle, but Race's opponent didn't show up. When I volunteered to take his place, Race agreed only under the condition that it be a non-title match.

"That proves to me one thing," Windham said with a broad grin, "Harley Race is afraid of me. He knows I'm hot on his heels, he knows that I can do it, that I can take the belt from him, and he's not taking any chances. I can't say that I blame him, I'd probably do the same thing. But I'm confident. All I need is a fair shot at the belt and I think I've got him."

Orlando, Florida:

Barry Windham exercised in the dressing room prior to his title match with Harley Race. He performed 50 deep knee bends followed by 50 pushups followed by 50 situps. Then he strapped a pair of "gravity boots" around his ankles (boots with a large steel hooks) and attached himself upside down to a steel chinning bar.

"This is great," Windham said with a smile. "It straightens out and stretches the spine. Cracks ev-

erything into place better than a chiropractor! It really loosens me up before a match, it's very relaxing and very invigorating."

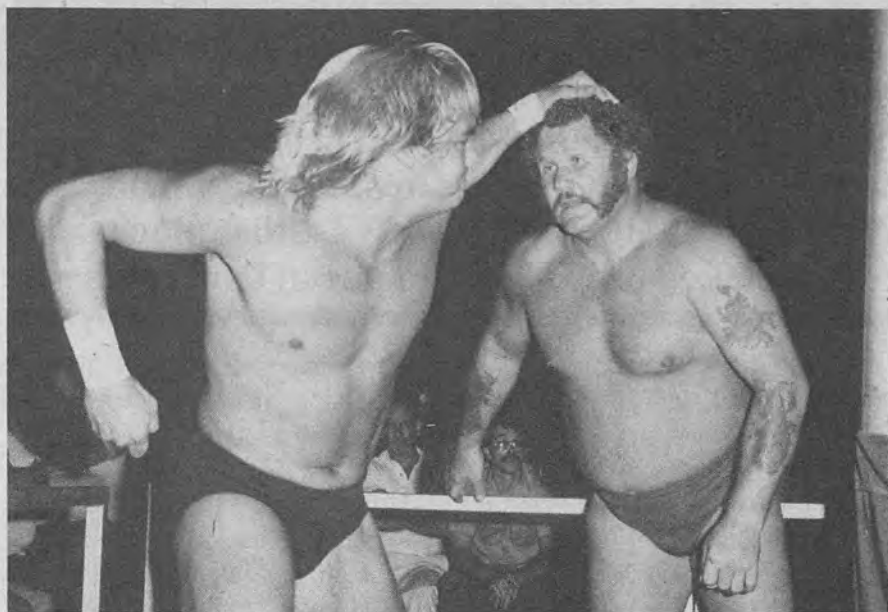
Barry hoisted himself in the air, grabbed the bar with his hands, and stood upright again.

"My body stretches out, blood runs to my head, I feel terrific," he said. "I'm ready to wrestle. You can bet that Race doesn't do anything like this before a match. This is going to help give me the edge that I need to take him tonight."

Harley Race packed the NWA belt into his gymbag and ran his fingers through the curls on his head. He was weary from having battled Barry Windham in a match that ended in his favor when Windham was disqualified for accidentally throwing him over the top rope.

"I have to hand it to him, the kid is good," Race said, "but I'm better. I have to be, I'm the champion, I have to stay one step ahead of my challengers. I have to be on the alert at all times in a match, thinking ahead all the time. I do that by drawing on my experience. Hell, with seven NWA title reigns, I have more experience fending off challengers than anyone else I know!

"Like tonight," Race explained, "there were several times where he could have pinned me. But I could read him like a book, I could tell he was letting his enthusiasm get the better of him. I knew he wouldn't go for the pin at that point, so I knew that I could take a calculated risk and try and reverse his hold on me. I can think of three



Windham holds Race in place as he swings his right forearm into the champion's face (above left). Barry rubs his large boots into Harley's face (above right).



particular times tonight where that happened. All three times it worked. That's part of being champion, staying one step ahead and taking calculated risks.

"Windham is good," Race concluded, "and he'll wear the belt someday, but he won't win it from me."

Miami, Florida:

Southern champion Mike Rotondo stood in the doorway to the dressing room area studying the action in the ring. Barry Windham was wrestling Harley Race with the

NWA title on the line.

"Watch him closely . . . there . . . good, Barry, good."

Rotondo spoke as if he were in the ring with Barry guiding his every move. In a sense he was, because Barry was in a position in which Mike hopes to be very soon.

"Here, watch this . . . now, Barry, make the move . . . Damn!"

Rotondo echoed verbally what Windham no doubt felt deep within himself. Barry had attempted to go for a pinfall, but Race anticipated the move and countered him



perfectly.

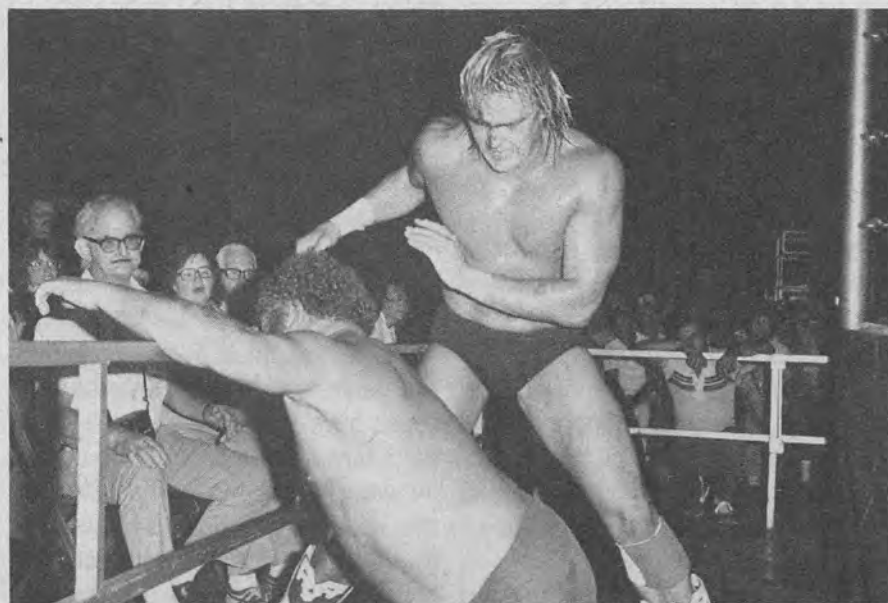
"Damn! You were so close, Barry, so close!"

Indeed, Barry Windham seems to have spent the better part of the last six months being so very close to capturing the NWA belt from Harley Race, but Race has likewise spent the better part of that time countering the challenger's skills.

Windham is convinced that sooner or later he will be successful, that eventually Race's shoulders will remain on that mat for the required three seconds and he will enjoy the glory and honor of strapping the NWA belt around his waist.

But that moment remains somewhere in the future. For his part, Barry will not stop trying.

And neither will Harley Race. □



Windham, who shows added maturity with each match, slams Race's face into a wooden barrier (above) and backdrops the champion (top right).

A YEAR OF HELL,



On October 9, 1983, Nick Bockwinkel will celebrate the first anniversary of his defeat of Otto Wanz and consequently the start of his third title reign as AWA heavyweight champion. To mark the occasion, *Sports Review Wrestling* takes a look back at a remarkable championship year

A YEAR OF GLORY



WHILE MANY PEOPLE contend that he intentionally disqualifies himself in order to maintain a hold on his title, few people dispute that AWA heavyweight champion Nick Bockwinkel is a man to be respected, both in the squared circle and in the record books.

Since 1975, when he defeated Verne Gagne in St. Paul, Minnesota, to claim his first championship, Bockwinkel's

name has become virtually synonymous with the AWA title itself. He has lost the title twice, but was never without the belt for very long: In one case he regained the belt after 10 months, in the other case it took only two months to recapture the title (*see chart on page 33 for a detailed breakdown of Bockwinkel's three title reigns*).

Perhaps it was Bockwinkel's manager, Bobby Heenan, who best described the AWA

champion when he said in a recent interview, "Nick is the kind of a champion who won't back down from any opponent. He's turned back challenges from the top men in the sport, and in doing so he's proved that he truly is the best wrestler anywhere. Of course, his title reigns haven't been without controversy, but that's all part of being a champion. And, first and foremost, Nick is a champion, through and through."

On the pages that follow, we examine some of the controversies and some of the victories—the hell and the glory—that have characterized Bockwinkel's third title reign. They may or may not prove that Bockwinkel is the best wrestler competing today; that's for you to decide for yourself. But they certainly prove that Nick Bockwinkel is a formidable competitor, and a champion who never fails to provide thrills for AWA wrestling fans.

OCTOBER 1982

On October 9, Bockwinkel defeated Otto Wanz to regain the AWA World title. Following the victory, Bockwinkel said he was "exhausted but happy. I went out there to achieve a specific goal, and I did what I intended to do. I have to hand it to Wanz. He's a tough competitor and he wrestled an excellent match, but in the end I feel I proved who the better man was." Bockwinkel's manager, Bobby Heenan, was not as gracious, claiming that "Wanz is just another wrestler who has been brought to his knees by the Bobby Heenan family. Nick Bockwinkel is the one real world champion, and



Bockwinkel applies an armlock en route to regaining the AWA World title from Otto Wanz.

now Wanz and everybody else in the world knows it."

Less than a week later, Bockwinkel was scheduled to defend the title against Tony Atlas in Houston. Heenan filed a vehement protest with the AWA: "Why should my man have to risk his belt so soon?" Heenan asked. "Why not give him a little rest? To force Nick to wrestle Atlas right after such a tough battle with Wanz is not fair, and I hope to do something about it." Heenan was unable to do anything about it; Bockwinkel defended his title successfully against Tony Atlas, though he did so under protest.

NOVEMBER 1982

Late October saw the arrival of Rick Martel to the AWA. Bockwinkel remained uncharacteristically silent when it came to discussing Martel, but



Tony Atlas' strength provided Bockwinkel with a scare, but in the end the champ was victorious.

his manager was as vocal as always. "We aren't ready for the Martel match," cried Heenan in reference to a scheduled title defense in Minneapolis late in the month. "Doesn't [Minneapolis promoter Wally] Karbo understand our schedule? Nick is already defending the belt twice on Thanksgiving week. No champion, let alone the World heavyweight champion, should have to do that."

One of those Thanksgiving matches was a rematch demanded by Tony Atlas as the result of his October confrontation. "That's part of the problem with being top man in the world," Bockwinkel noted at the time. "Even after you defeat a clown like Atlas, he still turns around and wants another shot at you. How many times do I have to defeat the guy before he gives up?"

DECEMBER 1982

"I always like to take it easy during the holiday season," said Bockwinkel, "and I really didn't sweat too much in December. Besides, by the end of last year I had already eliminated every top contender to my title. The only person left who deserved a title shot was Johnny Rich, and the AWA granted him one. He wasn't even the number one contender at the time, but I traveled to Houston anyway and showed him what it's like to face world-class opposition. I'll tell you something, after that night in Houston he never asked for a title match again!"

JANUARY 1983

Bockwinkel started the new year by creating a nationwide controversy: He defended his title against Pat Patterson in San



Bockwinkel defends his title against unranked challenger Pat Patterson in San Francisco.

Fransisco. Patterson was not ranked among the top 10 contenders in the AWA, and fans demanded to know how he managed to avoid a lengthy climb up the ladder of contention to receive a title match. More shocked than the fans was Ken Patera, who demanded a title match with his

aggressiveness on Heenan, who was standing on the ring apron. "I was on the apron to point out Martel's rule-breaking," Heenan said at the postmatch press conference. "Apparently he thought he could get the title by throwing Nick over the top rope. Fortunately the referee saw exactly what happened and made the proper call. Out of frustration Martel attacked me. I'm demanding that he be suspended until he learns to control his temper." Martel was not suspended, and, in fact, the AWA granted him an immediate rematch.

FEBRUARY 1983

Bockwinkel faced a two-pronged attack in February. Rick Martel continued to challenge him for the AWA belt in Minneapolis, and Jerry Lawler traveled from Memphis to Chicago to offer his challenge.

"Lawler calls himself the 'King of Wrestling,' but I'm the World champion," Bockwinkel



In another controversial match, number one contender Rick Martel dives at Bockwinkel from the turnbuckles.

stablemate. "I will not stand for two of my men wrestling each other," Heenan said in turning down Patera's request.

Meanwhile, Rick Martel had risen to the number one contender spot and had earned another title shot against the champion. In a highly controversial match in Minneapolis, Martel was disqualified for throwing Bockwinkel over the top rope. Rick then focused his

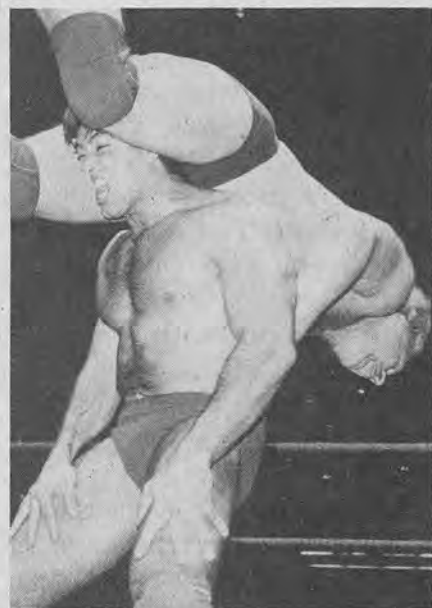


Jerry Lawler, who came from Memphis to Chicago for a title match, narrowly avoids Bockwinkel's kneedrop.

said. "I don't care. I can handle Martel with one hand and Lawler with the other and still have enough energy to wrestle anyone else who comes down the pike."

Bockwinkel needed that energy: In the month of February, he defended the belt 15 times, against Martel, Lawler, Greg Gagne, Jim Brunzell, and several other top competitors. It was a busy month indeed for the champion.

MARCH 1983



Martel backdrops Bockwinkel, a champion for whom the popular Canadian has tremendous respect.

Martel remained the number one contender. And despite his failures to capture the belt, he went so far as to come out in public and claim that he "respects Nick Bockwinkel—at least he gives me a title shot." In a story printed in our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Martel pointed out that one of the reasons he traveled to the AWA was so that he could wrestle for Bockwinkel's AWA title. When he wrestled in the WWF, he could not get a title match against Bob Backlund.

APRIL 1983

Hulk Hogan made a memorable return to Minneapolis and wrestled Bockwinkel for the title on April 24. In the weeks prior to the match, Bockwinkel was quoted as saying, "I realize that Hulk Hogan is a very powerful man, but he is also a man who loses his temper and his bearing in the ring. When he does, I'll be ready to take full advantage." In order to be ready to seize that opportunity, Bockwinkel had to spend a lot of time in the gym. "I have to train hard to wrestle Hogan. Here's a man who stands 6'8", weighs 320 pounds, and is totally unpredictable. In some ways he's probably the toughest adversary I've ever faced. I respect any man who rises to become top contender, but alas, only one man can be champion. Only one man can hold the most prestigious title in the entire sports world, and that's me."

Bockwinkel was successful in turning back the challenge of Hogan. The Hulk was so upset that he had disappointed the fans, he left the AWA and traveled to Japan.

The champ successfully turns back the challenge of Hulk Hogan.



MAY 1983

After defending his title against the "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes in Houston, Bockwinkel decided he would relax a little and wrestle in some tag team matches. Perhaps he relaxed too much: Teaming with Blackjack Lanza against Wahoo McDaniel and Rick Martel, Bockwinkel was pinned by Wahoo in the center of the ring. "What was at stake in this bout?" Bockwinkel asked in the wake of the stunning defeat. "I suppose McDaniel was out to prove something, but from my standpoint there was nothing to be gained by defeating him. I really don't care. If he thinks that it will be that easy for him

After a tough match with Dusty Rhodes, Bockwinkel decided to wrestle in tag team matches for a while.

to defeat me in an AWA title match, he is badly mistaken."

JUNE/JULY 1983

The humiliating defeat suffered by Bockwinkel in the May tag team match acted as a catalyst for a series of matches between the two men throughout the months of June and July. Wahoo McDaniel was close enough to defeating Bockwinkel so many times that he had no other choice but to continue wrestling him for the belt.

The rivalry between Bockwinkel and McDaniel is deep-seated. Both men were star athletes at the University of Oklahoma in the '50s and were always trying to outdo each other. In fact, Bockwinkel once kicked down a row of lockers when he heard that McDaniel was named All-America in football and he wasn't.

"I'm beginning to get fed up with McDaniel following me all over the place," Bockwinkel was quoted as saying at the time. "This college rivalry stuff is overplayed, but one of these days I'll have to take care of him permanently."

Bockwinkel tried to do ex-

NICK BOCKWINKEL'S AWA CHAMPIONSHIP REIGNS

Title Won By	Title Won From	Location	Date
Nick Bockwinkel	Verne Gagne ¹	St. Paul, MN	11-08-75
Verne Gagne ²	Nick Bockwinkel	Chicago	07-18-80
Nick Bockwinkel ³			05-19-81
Otto Wanz	Nick Bockwinkel	St. Paul, MN ⁴	08-29-82
Nick Bockwinkel	Otto Wanz	Chicago ⁵	10-09-82

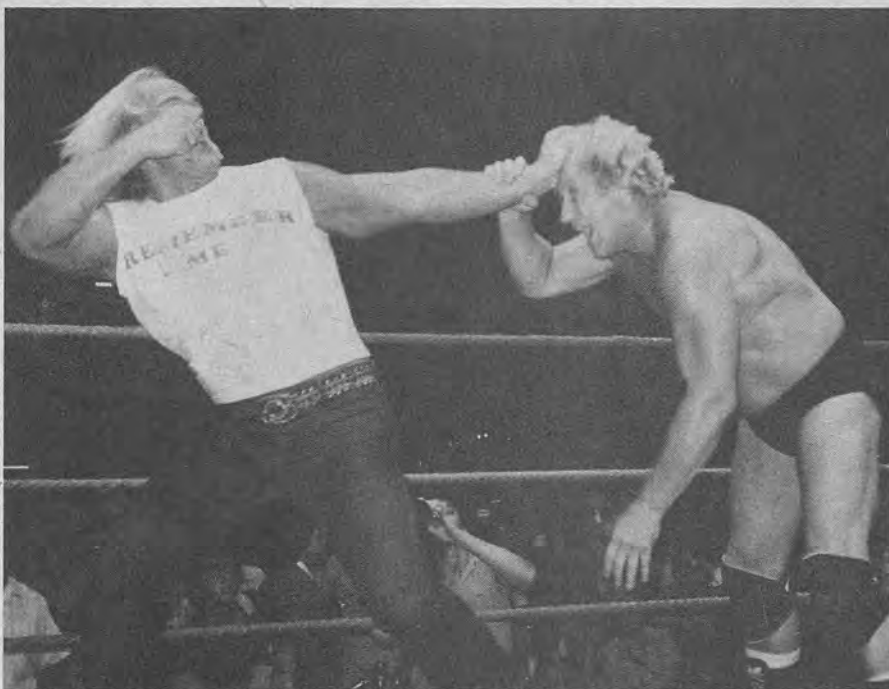
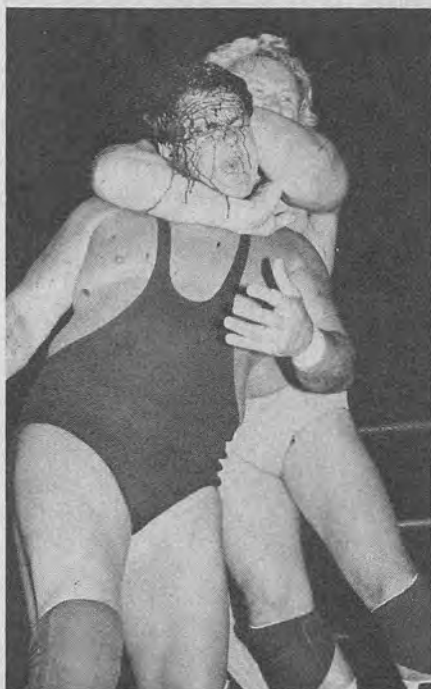
¹ Verne Gagne claimed it was the interference of Bobby Duncum that cost him the title.

² Gagne held the title until his retirement on May 10, 1981.

³ Bockwinkel is awarded the title due to Gagne's retirement, his number one ranking at the time, and his status as former champion.

⁴ Time of the match: 16:39. Bockwinkel attempted the piledriver, but Wanz backdropped the champion for the pin.

⁵ Time of the match: 15:05.



Blood spurts from Wahoo McDaniel's open wounds as Bockwinkel applies a sleeperhold (above left). When the upper hand in the match shifted, the champion would need the help of Bobby Heenan. Unfortunately for Nick, Hulk Hogan came to the aid of Wahoo (above right).

AUGUST 1983

actly that last July, with the help of Heenan, who tried to ambush McDaniel from behind. But McDaniel had help on his side to counter the attack: Hulk Hogan, who had been on special assignment to cover the match for our sister publication *Inside Wrestling*, cut off Heenan's attack and cleared the ring of the manager and his champion.

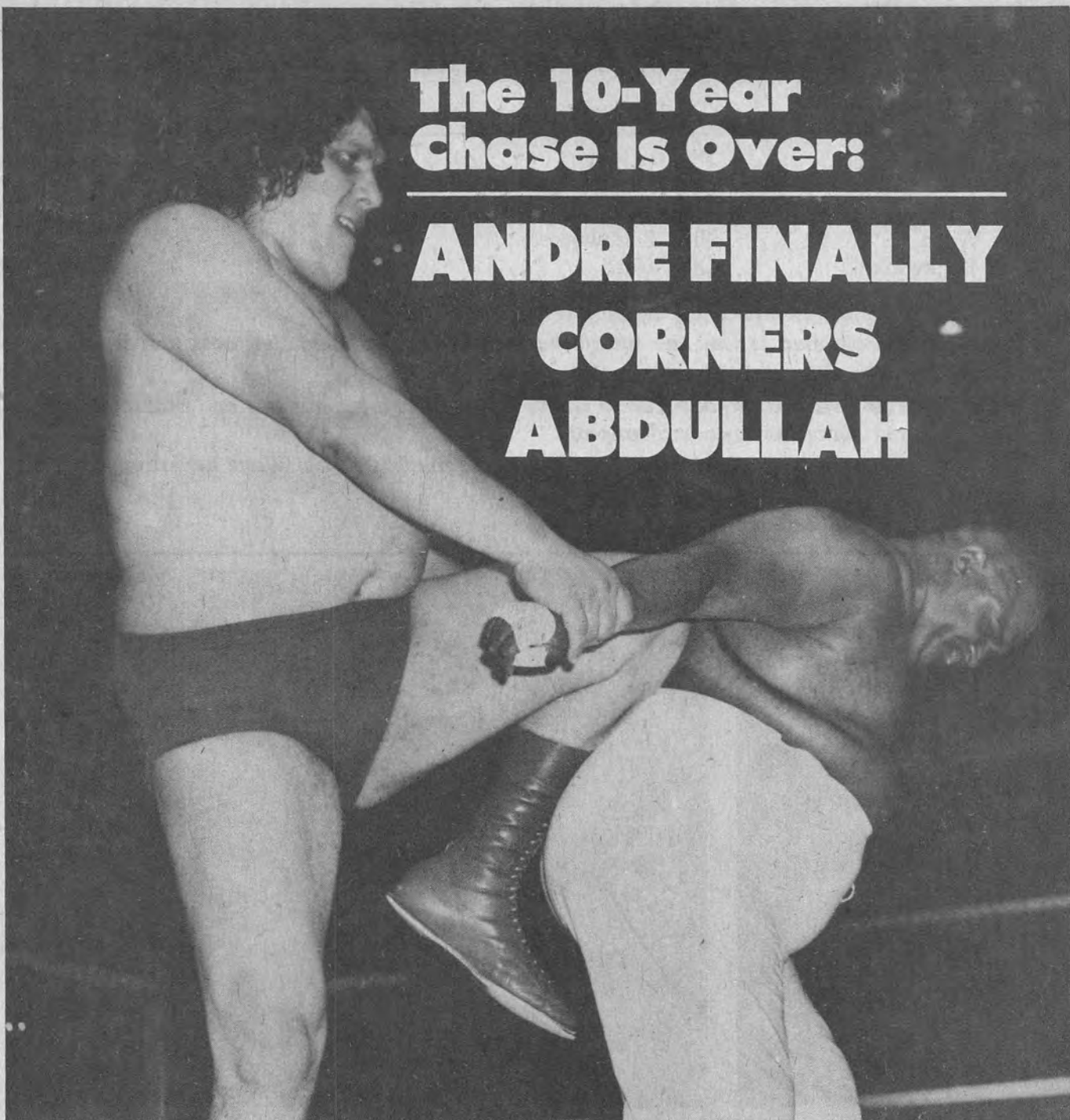
It seemed as if Bockwinkel's feud with McDaniel would come to an end when the AWA ordered that the champion face Wahoo in a no time limit, no disqualification, title match. "I strongly object to this match on principle," Bockwinkel said. "Why, all of a sud-

den, do the promoters feel these kinds of stipulations are necessary? Are they hoping to strip me of the title in this way? I can tell them, it just won't work. I strongly object to a championship match under these conditions, but if that's the way they want it, so be it."

The match was a brutal confrontation that found both men
(Continued on page 48)

The 10-Year Chase Is Over:

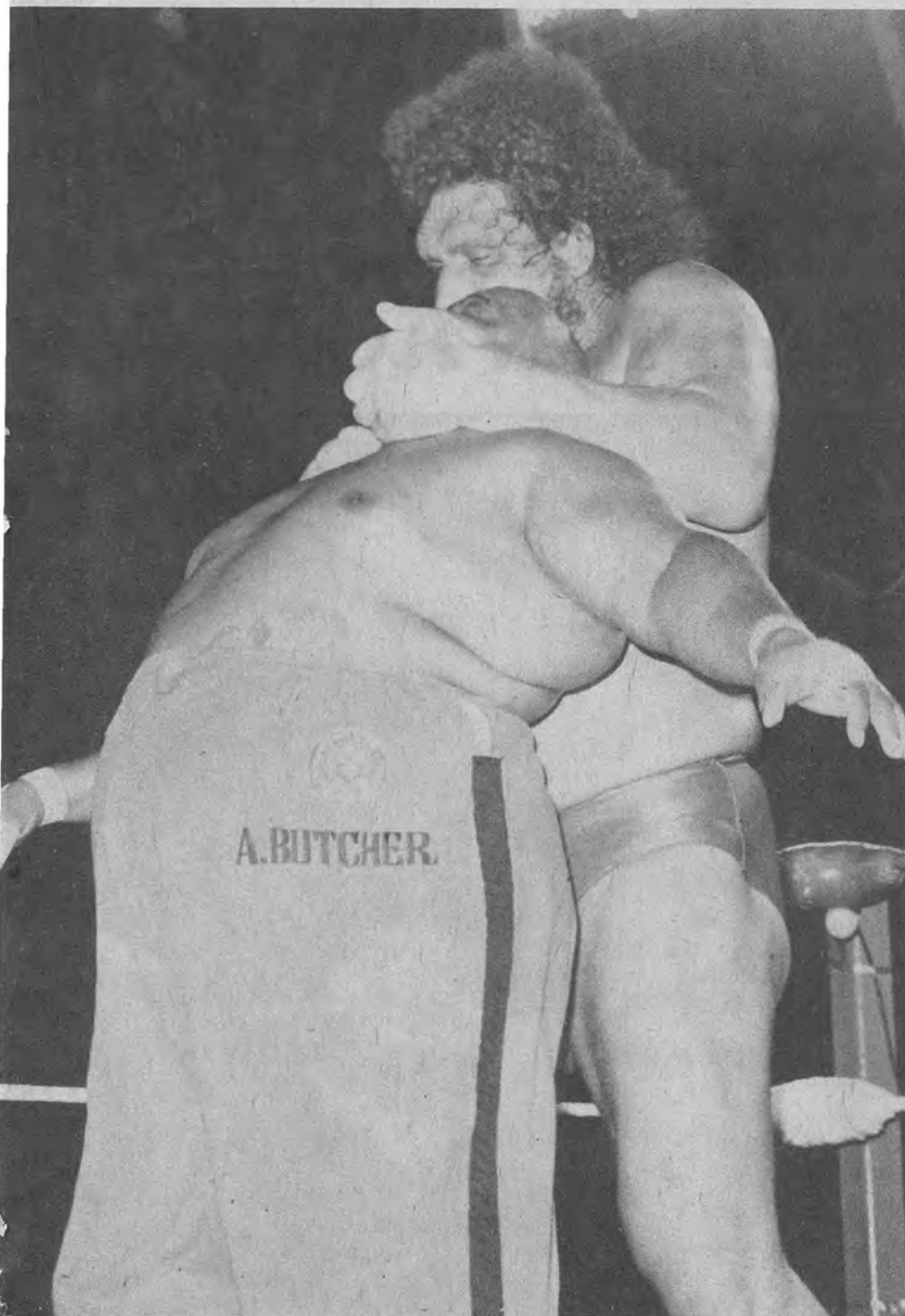
ANDRE FINALLY CORNERS ABDULLAH



Ten years ago in Montreal, Andre the Giant wrestled Abdullah the Butcher. The Giant, whose undefeated record was then in the formative stages, plants his knee into the Butcher's back (above).

In front of 25,000 fans, Andre the Giant confronted Abdullah the Butcher at Puerto Rico's Hiram Bithorn Stadium. It would end behind closed doors in a battle no spectator actually saw but is still sure to become wrestling legend. This odd and savage story is definitely not for the weak of heart!

Photos by Bill Apter & Tony Lanza



Ten years after their first encounter, Andre is still working on Abdullah's back (left). The Butcher tries to carve up the Giant (above).

THIS STORY BEGINS in 1973. Andre the Giant met Abdullah the Butcher in a classic confrontation of wrestling giants. When it was over, after a long and furious contest, no one was satisfied. Everyone demanded a rematch. Everyone but Abdullah.

After Abdullah avoided Andre's challenge for a couple of years, everyone assumed Abdullah was crazy but not stupid. Where Abdullah was concerned, Andre had the bloodlust. If wrestling's titan ever got Abdullah in the ring, it would

be the toughest battle of Abdullah's career. The man who sees fit to tack the word "Butcher" onto his name had no taste for another confrontation with Andre.

So the years passed. Andre's reputation as the world's only undefeated wrestler made him one of the few men whose fame transcends his sport. Even those who know nothing about wrestling know Andre. Abdullah saw this and his hatred for the superstar grew.

In November of 1973, Andre

distributed a contract to all major wrestling promoters. It was complete with his signature, requiring only Abdullah's mark to make it a legal document. It said Andre would wrestle Abdullah anytime, anywhere the match could be arranged. After a couple of years, Andre assumed the contracts had been discarded.

In August of 1982, a promoter in Puerto Rico came across a copy of the contract. What astounded him was that Andre signed for about a third of the purse he now commands. The promoter saw the contract as the biggest bargain of the decade. All that was needed was Abdullah's signature.

The promoter had been prepared for a tough time and that's what he got. For more than a year, Abdullah bickered and changed his mind. The promoter was patient. He had nothing to lose and everything to gain. And early on, he realized how much Abdullah hated Andre. The promoter knew it was only a matter of time.

Finally, after a full year of negotiations, Abdullah signed. The promoter realized it had nothing to do with the terms of the contract. Abdullah had stalled for time, so he could prepare himself for this titanic battle. Though he traveled the world and took on other opponents, Abdullah concentrated on Andre. If he could become the first man to defeat Andre, he would as-

(Continued on page 62)

Ric Flair Topples Crusher Blackwell: “I’M WRESTLING LIKE A CHAMPION AGAIN”

IT WAS ONE of those motel rooms where any sign of originality had been scrupulously removed. Ric Flair tried to get comfortable in the angular chair that seems so natural in these places. His large body was never meant to be accommodated by the chair. Finally, Flair gave up and flopped on the bed. His guest, a reporter of average proportions, did the best he could on the room’s other chair.

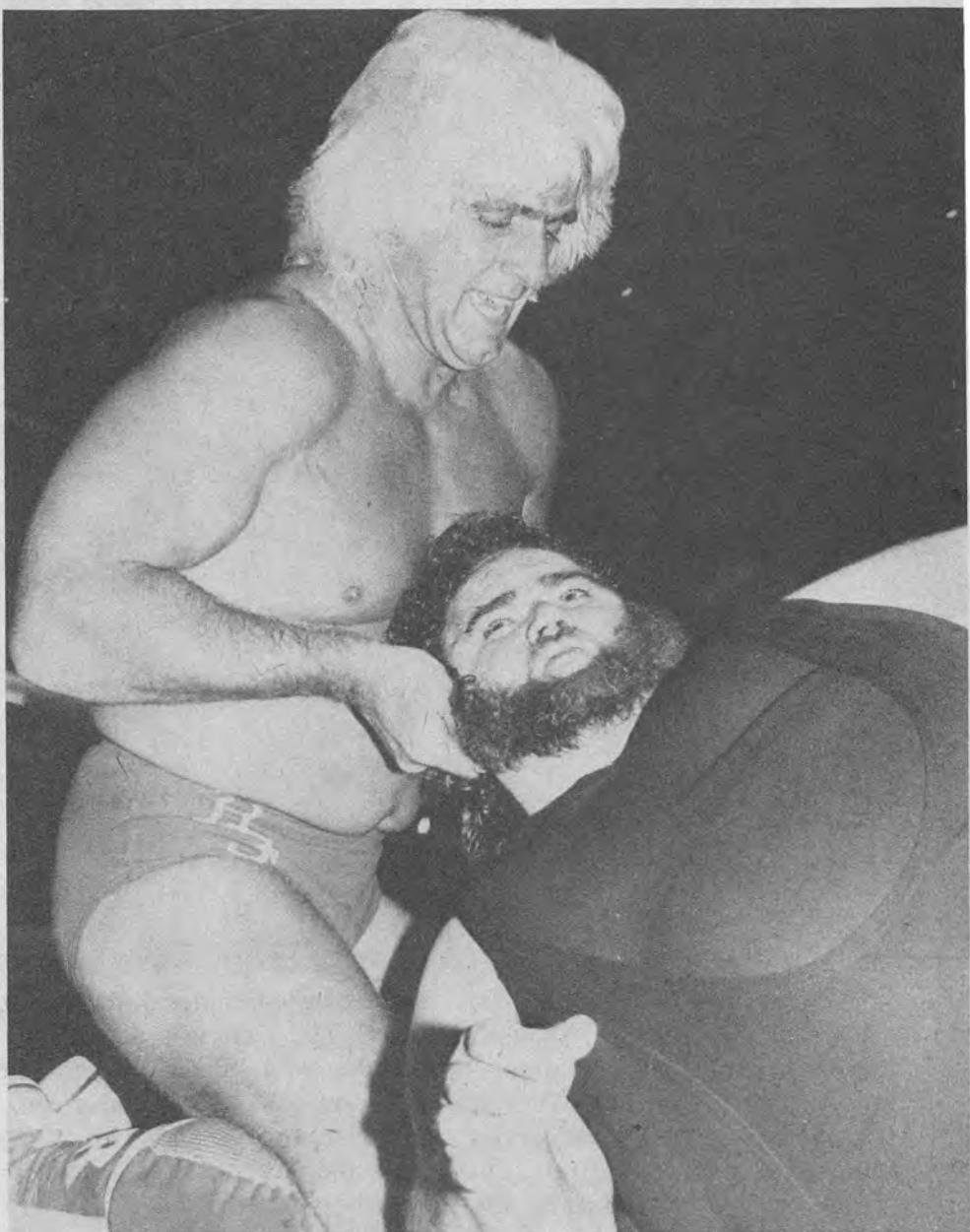
“Have you ever wondered,” Flair asked, “what would happen if you couldn’t write anymore? Let’s just say you lost it for no reason. Suddenly, the words refused to fall into place and you repeatedly failed to report the important occurrences. What would you do then?”

The reporter smiled. “I try not to think about it,” he admitted. “Though I guess I could get a real job if I had to.”

“I’m serious,” Flair insisted, “I want to know what you’d do.”

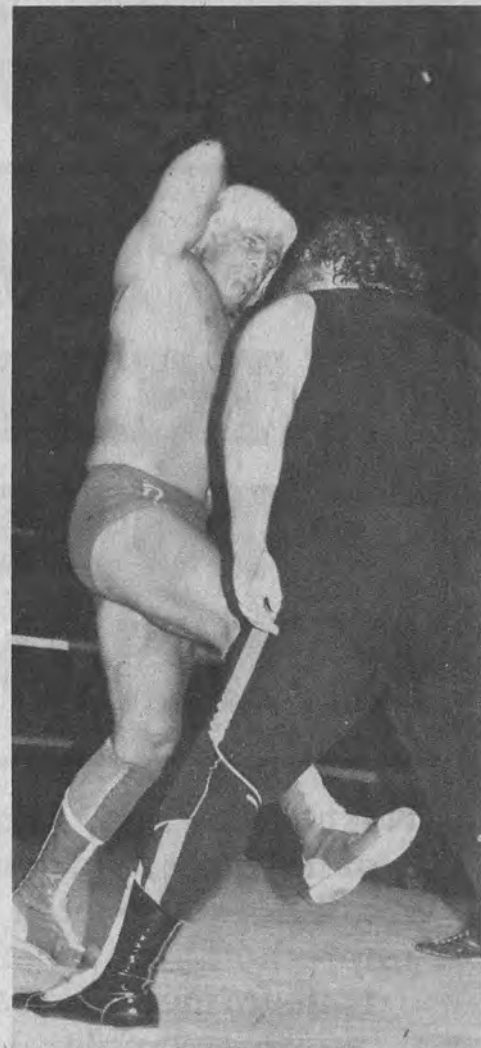
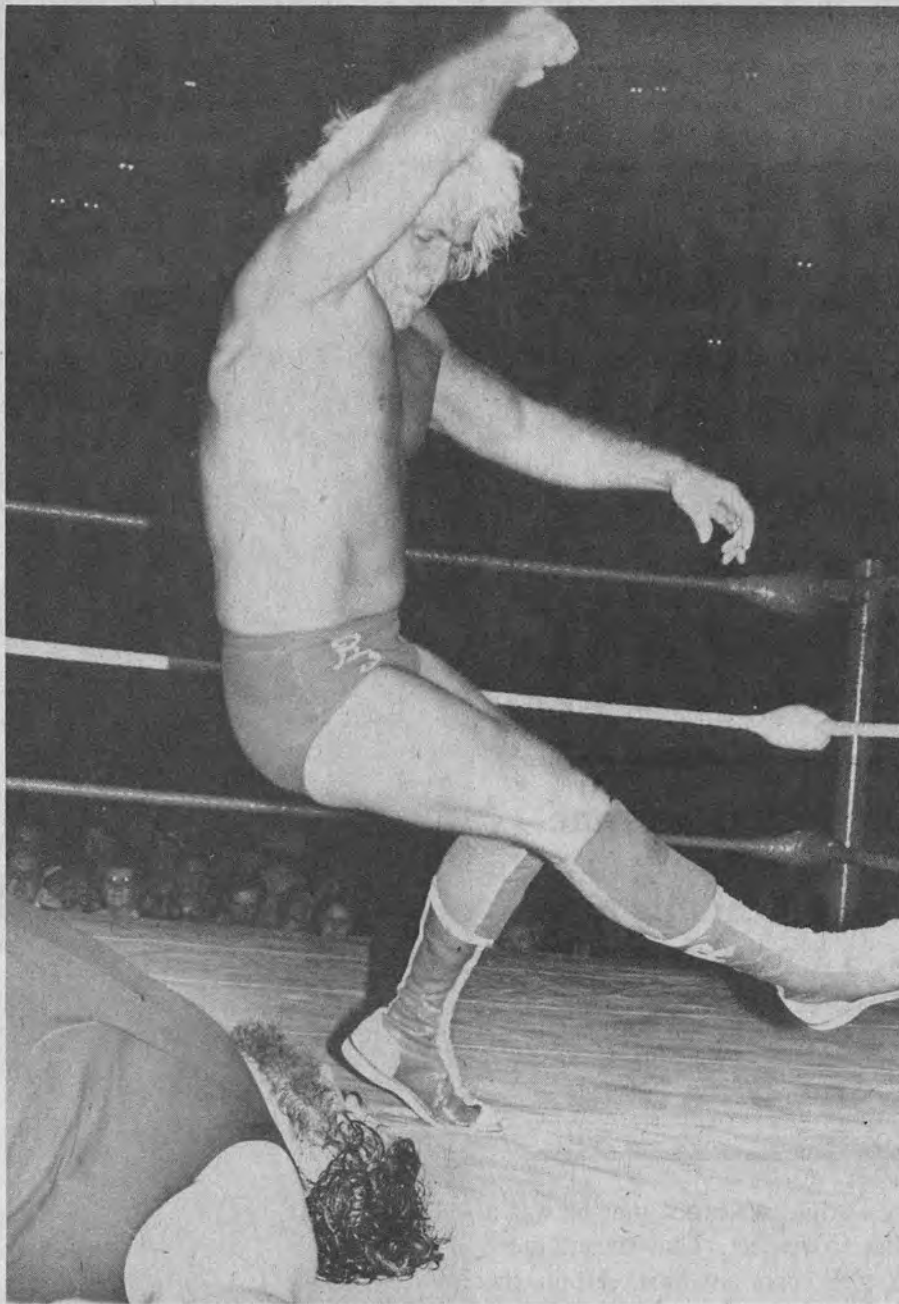
“Probably get into some sort of business,” came the reply. “I’d be miserable—the kind of person I’ve always hated. I wouldn’t be much good to anyone.”

“That’s what I figured,” Flair said. “I always figured some day I’d have to retire, but I’d do it gracefully. After my career was over, when it would be time to take a rest, I’d go proudly. But after I lost the title, something happened.



Ric Flair lifts Crusher Blackwell off the mat by his ears and will slam him back to the mat. Once Flair regained his confidence, he took control of the match.

After suffering the anguish of losing the NWA World championship, Ric Flair also lost the edge that had made him a champion. Then one night, in a furious battle against the savagely dangerous Crusher Blackwell, something wonderful happened



Flair's right elbow is probably his most potent weapon. The former NWA champion uses it against a standing and fallen Blackwell (above and left). Flair tries to ward off a diving Blackwell with his arm (below). Ric is lucky he didn't break the arm under the weight of the 474-pounder.

Nothing worked right. My timing was off, my reflexes were sluggish, and the drive to win was gone. No matter how much I practiced, no matter how much I tried to psych myself up, something was missing.

"You've seen my matches against Harley Race since he took the belt from me. Have you ever seen me wrestle so poorly? It's a disgrace. After the match, I can almost hear Race laughing at me. Where did my ability go?"

"This has never happened to me before. I've been down before, but I've never hit bottom. I've got a scary feeling I'm about to hit bottom."

The reporter nodded. "I know the feeling," he said. "I've gone through periods when the words didn't come, I only saw the obvious, and I felt like I was cheating my readers. I started pressing too hard, trying to force what should easily flow, then worried why nothing is working. I figured soon everyone would know and I'd be canned. Then I saw a great match, everything snapped into place, the words appeared on the page as if by magic, and all my worries were over. Yet I know the bad times will come again, the words will stop, and I'll suffer. It's part of the job,

(Continued on page 64)



Mosca vs. One Man Gang:

IT'S TIME FOR THE FANS TO TRUST ANGELO MOSCA

Not too long ago, Angelo Mosca was one of the most notorious rulebreakers in wrestling. As so often happens in this most unpredictable of sports, a singular event transformed Mosca into a brave and worthy grappler. Proof of this came during his war against One Man Gang

CARRYING A VIDEOTAPE of his match against One Man Gang, Angelo Mosca walked into the television studio. He smiled as he handed the cassette over to the technician. "I didn't trust the mail with it," he admitted, "so I brought it over myself."

The technician told him it would be a couple of hours before the tape would air. Mosca asked if he could be in the studio when it did. The technician said there was no rule stopping him. Mosca thanked the man and walked outside.

It was a beautiful autumn day, the kind that makes you glad to be alive. Mosca realized he'd be glad to be alive this day if it were sleeting. This was the best of all possible worlds. In a couple of hours, the Mid-Atlantic wrestling

area would see proof that he was a man to respect. That meant more to him than anything else in the world.

It wasn't too long ago that Mosca couldn't have cared less about wrestling fans. He was a ruthless rulebreaker, one of the most hated men in wrestling. Fans in the Mid-Atlantic area were treated to many of his most brutal matches. Mosca's disdain for the crowd was more than returned by the fans' hatred for him.

Then came the moment of truth. His son, Angelo Jr., was attacked in Florida by Kevin Sullivan and The Purple Haze. And it was Barry Windham (whom Mosca had always considered his enemy) who came to young Angelo Jr.'s aid. Suddenly, Angelo Sr. was without



any friends. Turning his great wrestling skills on the men who tried to end his son's career, he became a hero. Mosca discovered that the fans' cheers was one of the sweetest sounds he'd ever heard. He grew determined to hear those cheers more often.

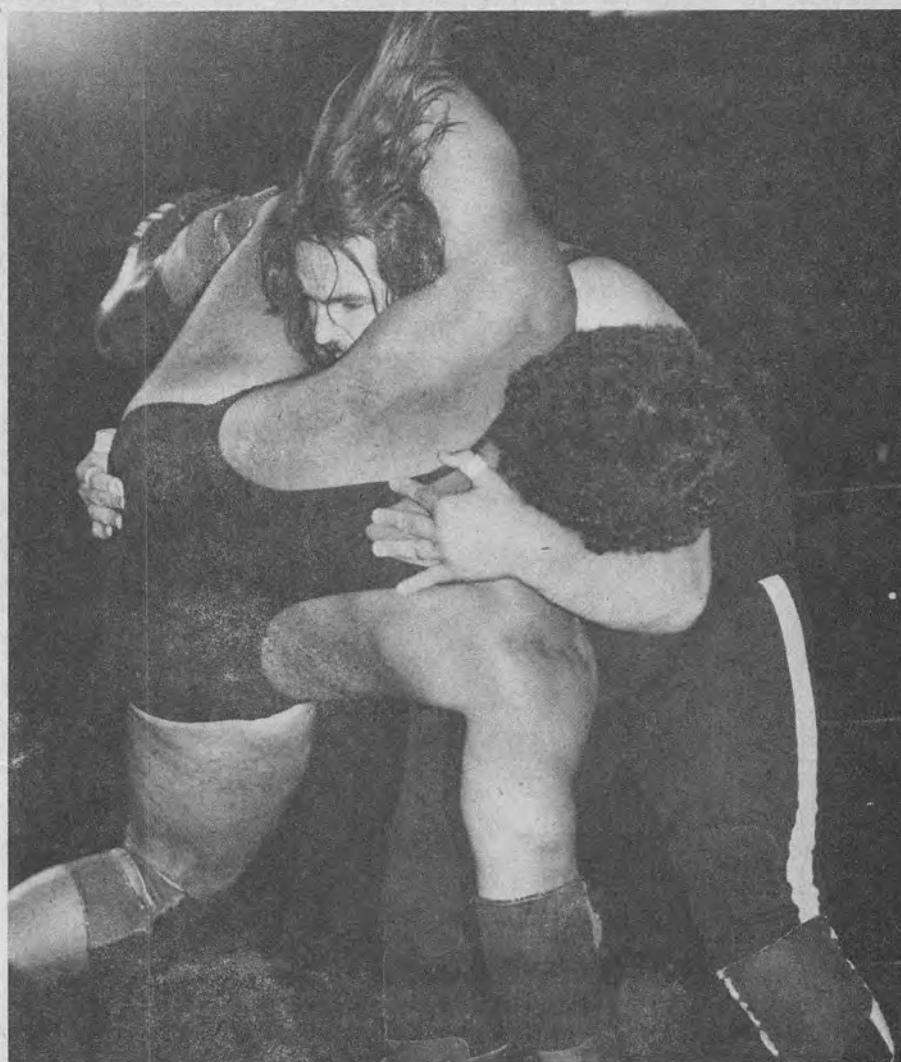
After convincing the Florida fans of his sincerity, Mosca realized he had one more task to accomplish. He had to prove to the Mid-Atlantic fans that he was worthy of their trust. It wouldn't be easy. There

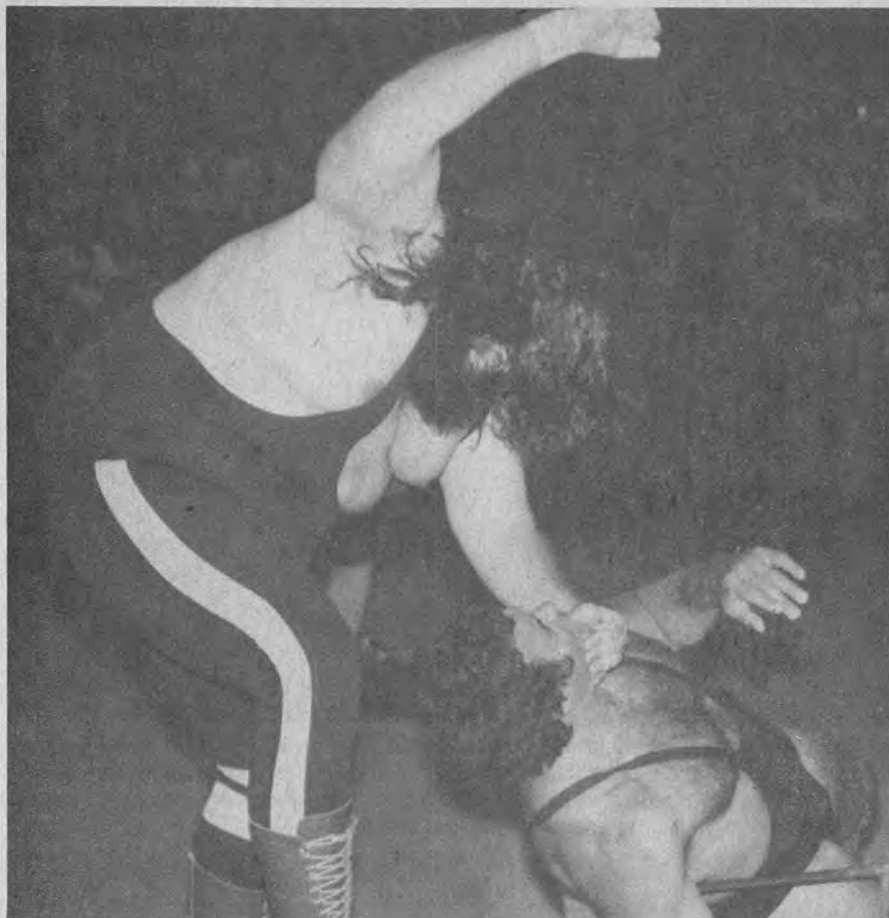


One Man Gang flings Mosca into the ropes (left), but Angelo will stun his opponent with a knee to the midsection on the rebound. OMG is able to work his way to the ropes to force Mosca to release his sleeperhold (above). Mosca turns One Man Gang's bodyslam into a cradle by hooking OMG's right leg with his left arm (below).

were too many ugly memories for the fans to easily forgive. Angelo needed to do something glorious to convince them.

The chance came quickly. One Man Gang had terrorized the Carolinas until he failed in a Loser Leave Town Match against Jim Valiant. OMG then went to Toronto, hoping to equal his evil success up north. Mosca decided he could do himself and the Toronto area some good by battling the man. If Angelo could show other

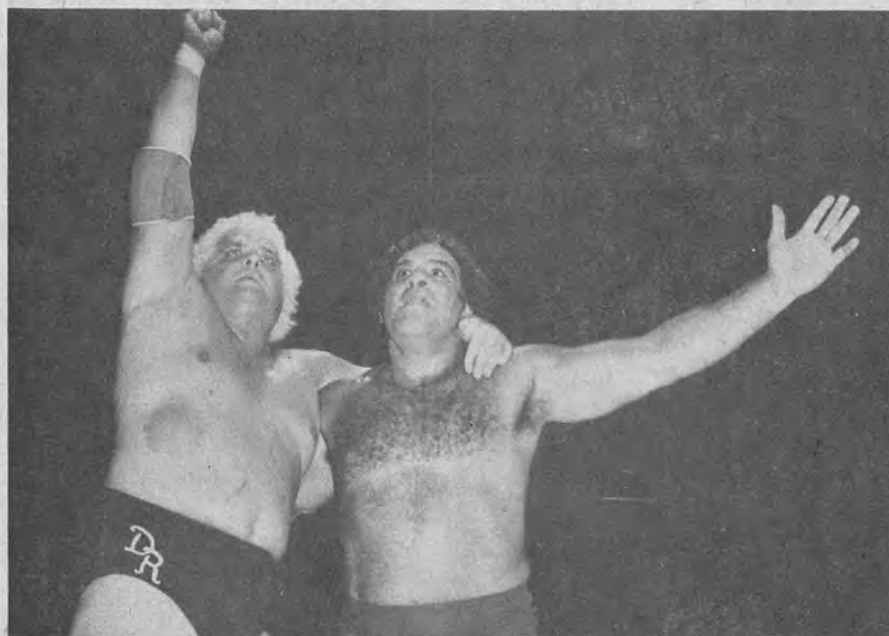




wrestlers that One Man Gang could be stopped, OMG could never get the stranglehold on Toronto he enjoyed in the Carolinas. Mosca pulled a few strings, called in a few favors, and signed a contract to wrestle One Man Gang in Toronto.

Mosca told friends it was the most important match of his life.

The night of the match, Mosca was nervous, the good kind of nervous that makes a man ready for action. When he was finally summoned to wrestle, Angelo had to



Urged on by the fans, Mosca will be able to come back from One Man Gang's aggressive onslaught (top). Angelo has earned the trust of good men like Dusty Rhodes (above), but he will not be satisfied until all the fans feel the same way.

check himself from running into the ring. When he saw One Man Gang standing across the ring from him, Angelo almost cheered. Mosca was ready for action.

One Man Gang was also ready. He went after Mosca with brutal intensity. It was a despicable exhibition of wrestling rulebreaking. Most wrestlers would have crumbled under the assault. Mosca bravely withstood the torture and waited for his moment.

Mosca the veteran knew that moment had to come. Brilliantly, he thwarted the attack and managed to gain the advantage. Angelo sacrificed a great deal, absorbed astounding amounts of pain, but persevered. Soon, Angelo had gained the advantage. The crowd cheered wildly.

That's what Mosca wanted to hear. The crowd was now on his side. The cheers energized him. Mosca, elated, did a series of maneuvers that defy description. When the whirlwind was over, Mosca had won the match.

The crowd gave him a standing ovation. It was a moment Angelo Mosca would remember for the rest of his life.

This was only the first step. For Mosca's mission to be completed, he had to convince the fans in the Mid-Atlantic area that he was on their side. That night, he took a flight to the Carolinas and contacted a television station that covers wrestling. He asked the station manager to play the videotape of his match against One Man Gang. He accepted.

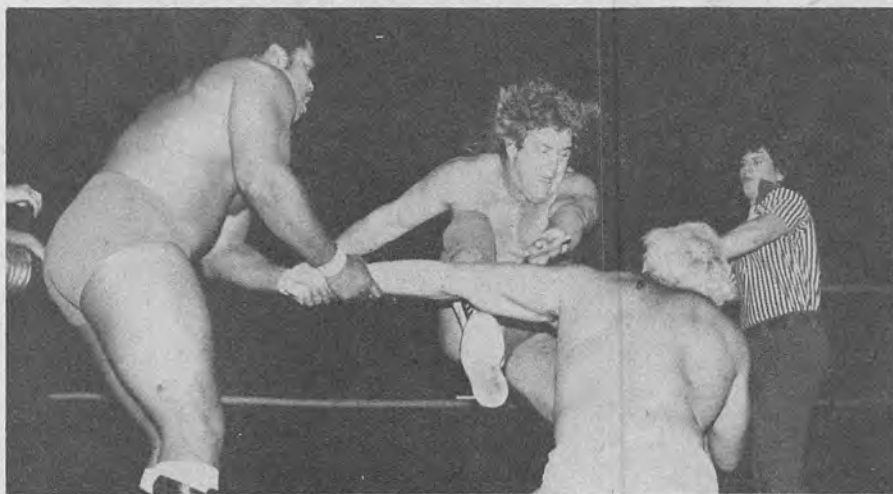
The next week, Mosca personally delivered the cassette to the television station. This was no time for the post office to make a mistake.

When the tape was played, his mission was complete. The fans had seen him at his best against an avowed enemy of decent wrestling. No man could do more. He had done his best. The fans couldn't ask anything more. □

MAKIN' MAYHEM IN MACON

By Craig Peters

Photos by Bill Apter & Craig Peters



Pez Whatley and Brett Wayne double-team Paul Ellering



Hawk stomps Sammartino Jr.



Wrestling II locks up Mr. Wrestling

● **Six-man elimination tag team match!** Pistol Pez Whatley, Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, and Brett Wayne faced off against Mr. Wrestling, Precious Paul Ellering, and "Mad Dog" Buzz Sawyer. According to the rules, whenever one individual was pinned or submitted, he had to leave his teammates behind and return to the dressing room.

● **Special Lumberjack Match!** It was mask vs. mask as Mr. Wrestling squared off against Mr. Wrestling II with the superstars of Georgia wrestling surrounding the ring. Whenever either man was thrown from the ring, the "lumberjacks" around the ring swarmed around him and tried to remove his mask!

● **The Road Warriors vs. Bruno Sammartino Jr. & Ronnie Garvin!** Characterized by some as the most brutal and vicious tag team in professional wrestling today, The Road Warriors offer no mercy to their opponents as they pummel and brawl their way to victory after victory. Fans in Macon were anxious to get an up-close look at this powerful combination.

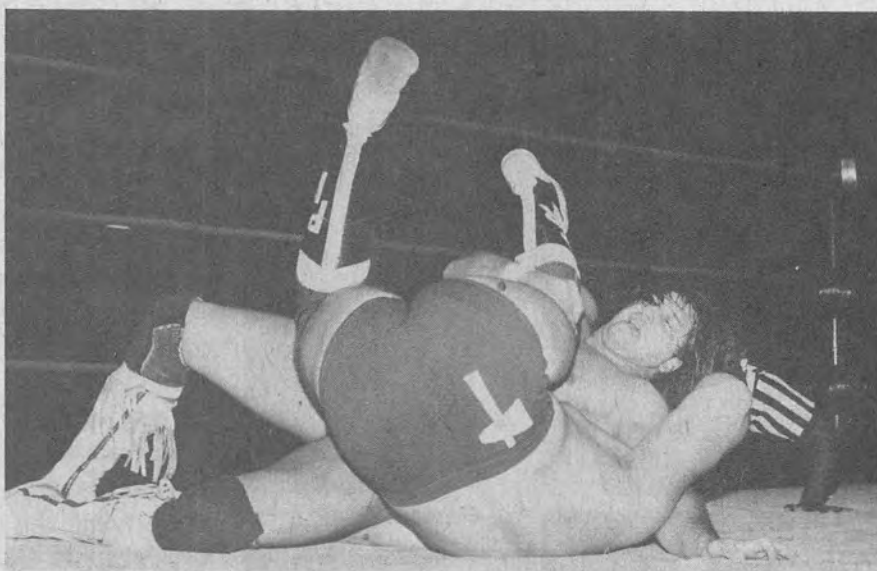
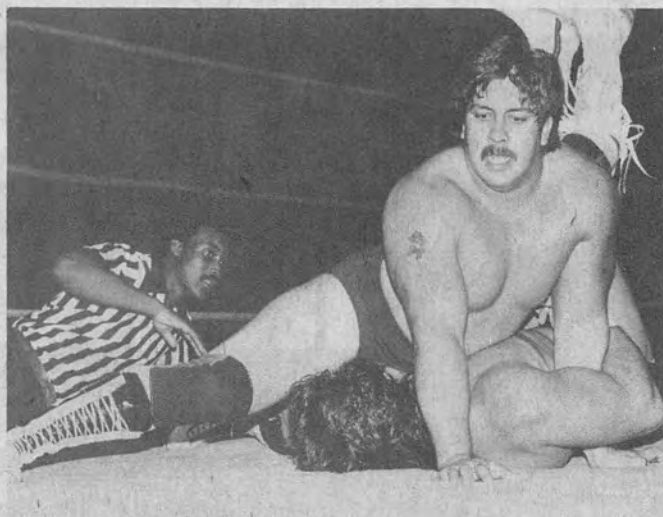
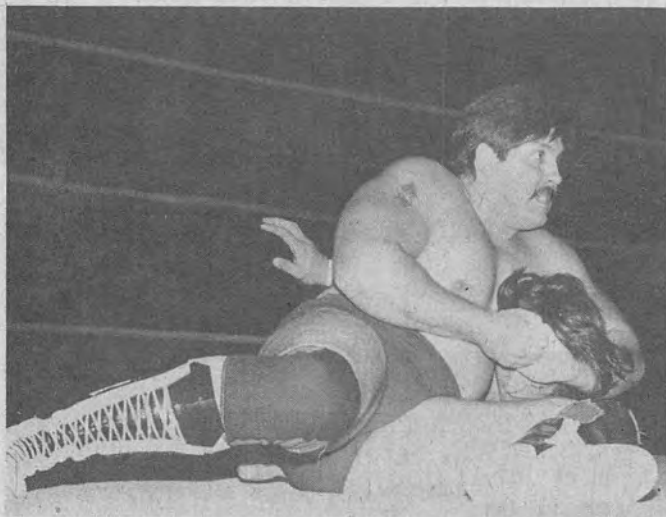
On the pages that follow, you'll have a ringside seat for all that action and excitement that took place in Macon that night. It's our way of bringing World Championship Wrestling on tour right to your home.

IT'S ROUGHLY A two-hour drive from the heart of Atlanta to downtown Macon, Georgia. I recently made that drive with *Sports Review Wrestling* Senior Editor Bill Apter to capture on film the action and excitement of World Cham-

pionship Wrestling.

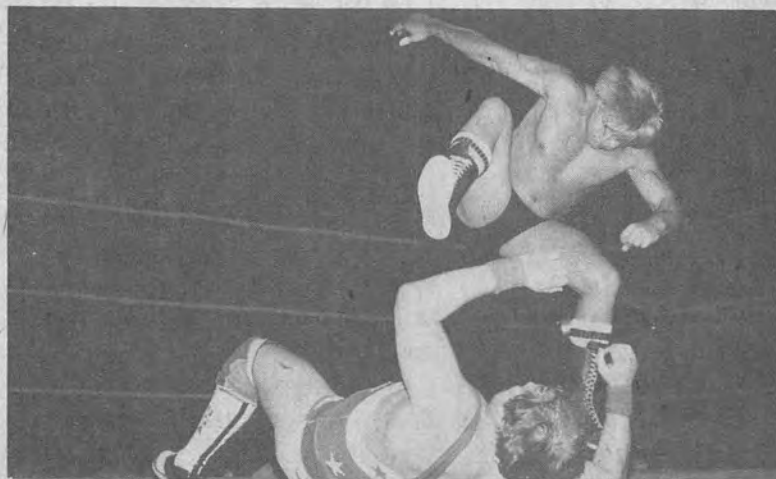
And let me tell you, there was no shortage of action that night in Macon! Just a quick glance at the top bouts on the five-match card gives you some idea of the thrills that the fans experienced that night:

CHIEF JOE LIGHTFOOT vs. PAT ROSE

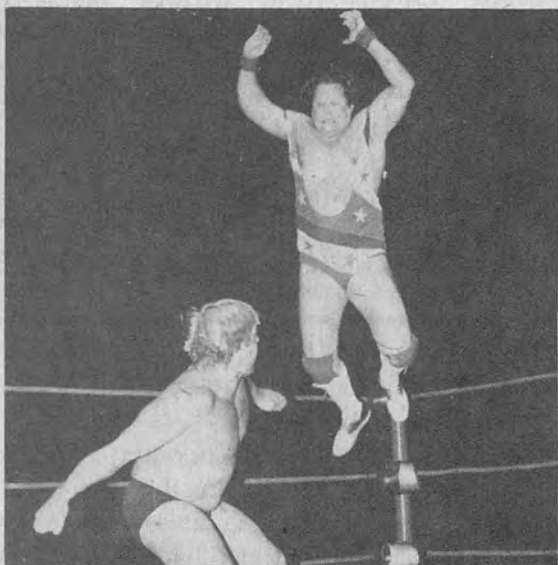


Rose weakens Lightfoot with a side headlock (top left) and goes for the pin (top right). Lightfoot, after taking a pounding for much of the match, cradles Rose for the victory (above).

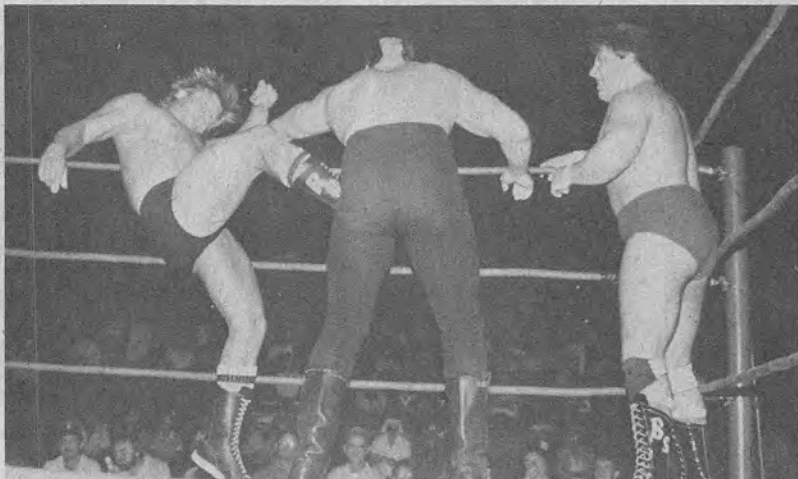
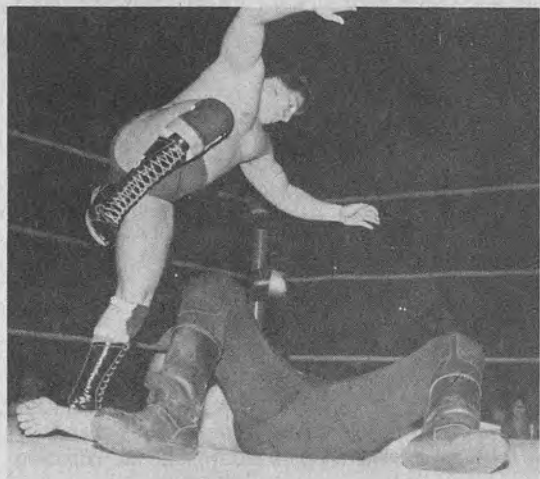
BOB ROOP vs. RONNIE GARVIN



Garvin unleashes a rapid series of kicks at Roop (above). Ronnie won the match after connecting with a right hand to the midsection of a leaping Roop (right).



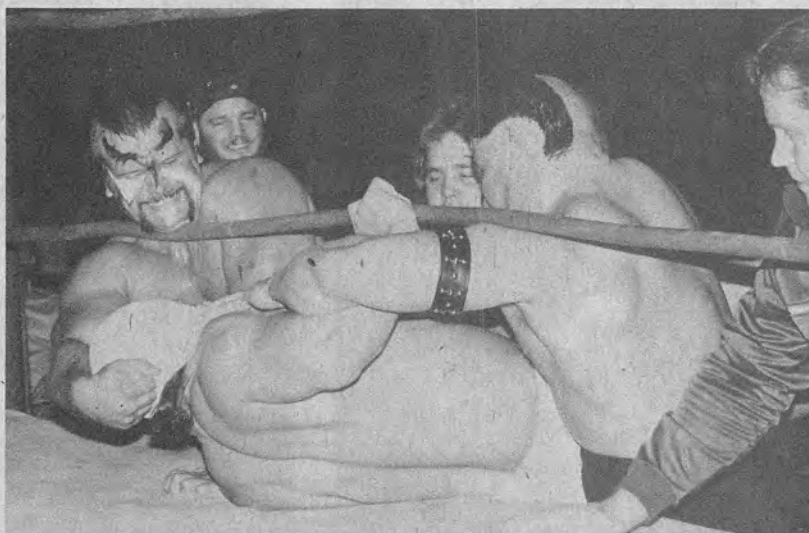
— THE ROAD WARRIORS vs. BRUNO SAMMARTINO JR. & RONNIE GARVIN —



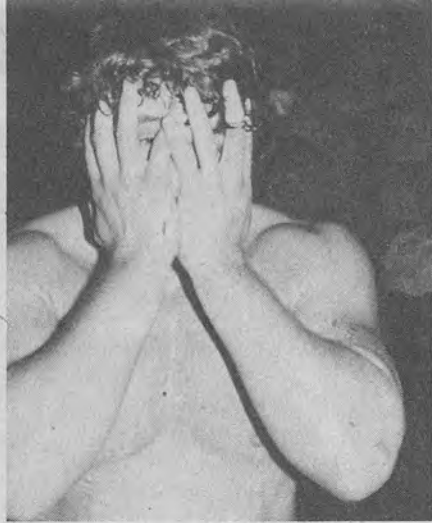
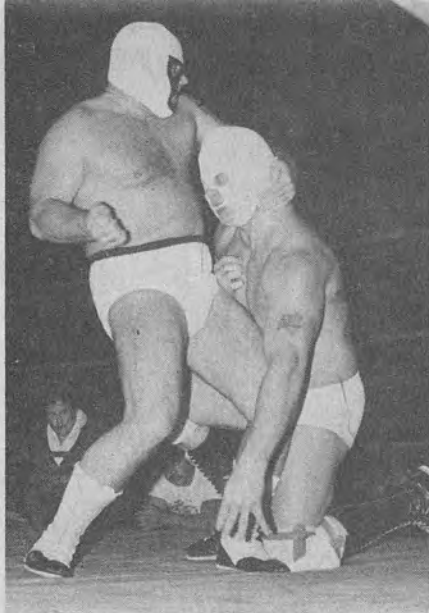
Sammartino Jr. puts all his weight behind a kneedrop (above left). Garvin boots Hawk at the beltline (above right). Sammartino Jr. is trapped in enemy territory by The Road Warriors (left). Garvin, who was replaced temporarily by Lightfoot to receive medical attention, gets his team disqualified as he hits Hawk with a music stand (below).



— MR. WRESTLING vs. MR. WRESTLING II —

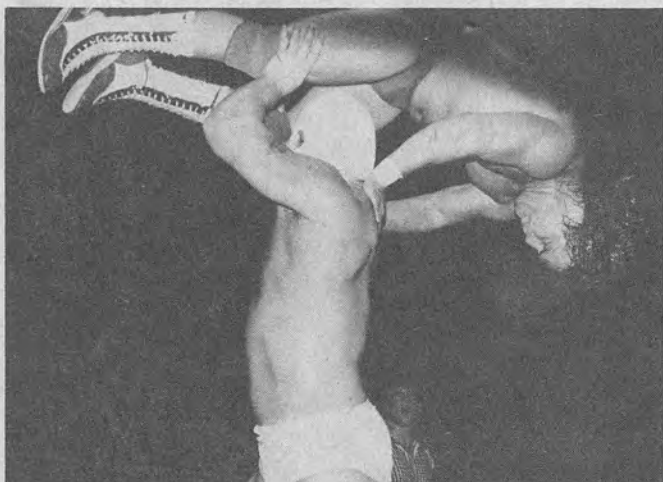
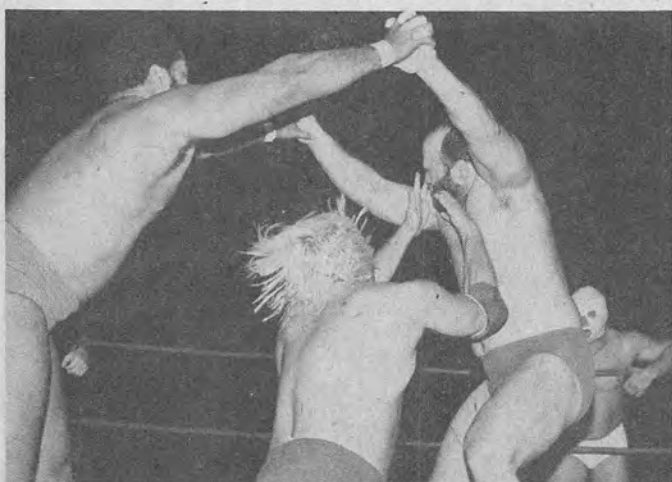


Mr. Wrestling finds that being at ringside is more dangerous than being in the ring as, in accordance with the rules of this Lumberjack Match, The Road Warriors and Brett Wayne attempt to unmask him. Buzz Sawyer (background) seems amused by it all.

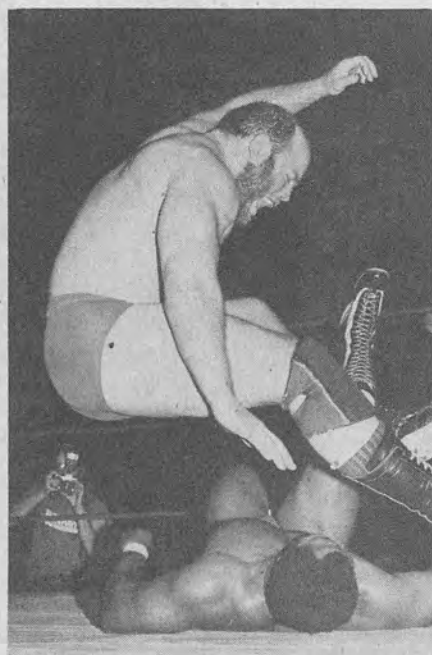
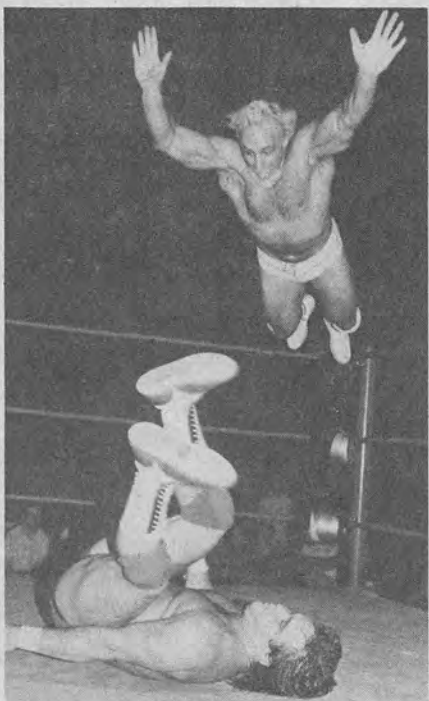


Mr. Wrestling II drives his palm into Mr. Wrestling's nose (left). Both wrestlers are eventually unmasked, but Mr. Wrestling II had the foresight to wear an extra (above left). Mr. Wrestling wasn't as smart (above right).

PISTOL PEZ WHATLEY, TOMMY RICH, & BRETT WAYNE VS. MR. WRESTLING, PRECIOUS PAUL ELLERING, & BUZZ SAWYER



The tremendous action in this special elimination tag team match was only overshadowed by its ending. With only Wayne left to battle both Ellering and Sawyer, Buzz decided that he and Precious Paul would return to the dressing room and forfeit the match.



RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans

No room in the ratings: Since instituting our expanded wrestling ratings in the August 1983 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*, we have received an incredible amount of mail. Virtually all of it, we're happy to say, has been complimentary. The greatest criticism thus far has been that we haven't expanded the ratings enough, that there are many areas of the country—and the world—that deserve to be listed on our ratings pages.



Carlos Colon

We agree with this criticism: There are several areas that do not receive proper attention in our ratings. Missouri, Tennessee, Hawaii, Midwest-WWA, Montreal, Puerto Rico, British Columbia, Southeast United States, Japan, Mexico, and so many others all deserve their own monthly ratings categories. Unfortunately, we are limited to only two pages for our ratings.

As a solution to the problem, "Ratings Analysis" will, from time to time, present a listing of the top 10 wrestlers in a category not regularly included on our ratings pages. This issue we look to Puerto Rico and the World Wrestling Council.

The WWC, which promotes matches in Puerto Rico, Trinidad, St. Thomas, and throughout the Caribbean, is a member of the NWA and recognizes Harley Race as the World champion.

In addition, the WWC recognizes several additional titles: The WWC heavyweight championship (currently held by Carlos Colon), the WWC North American championship (Pedro Morales), the Puerto Rican heavyweight championship (King Tonga), the Caribbean heavyweight championship (Abdullah the Butcher), the WWC tag team championship (The Masked Medics), and the WWC North American tag team championship (also The Masked Medics).

The top 10 wrestlers in the WWC as of press time are as follows:

WORLD WRESTLING COUNCIL

- 1—CARLOS COLON
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 2—PEDRO MORALES
240, Culebra, Puerto Rico
- 3—KING TONGA
243, Isle of Tonga
- 4—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
360, Sudan
- 5—THE INVADER
247, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 6—BOB SWEETAN
285, Round Rock, TX
- 7—TAMBA
317, Sudan
- 8—EL GRAN APOLLO
231, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 9—DORY FUNK JR.
244, Amarillo, TX
- 10—OX BAKER
309, Waterloo, IA



Pedro Morales



El Gran Apollo

The inclusion of Puerto Rico in this installment of "Ratings Analysis" is doubly important because WWC heavyweight champion Carlos Colon breaks into the NWA ratings this month at the number 10 position, and The Masked Medics crack the tag team listing at the number nine spot because they hold both Puerto Rican tag team championships.

The address for mail: Do you like this idea of including additional categories in "Ratings Analysis"? Do you have any ideas of your own for making this the kind of column you want to read? We welcome all comments and questions regarding our ratings. Send all correspondence to: Ratings Analysis/ *Sports Review Wrestling*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11571. □

OFFICIAL WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Dusty Rhodes



Greg Valentine

TOP 10

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1— HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO | 6— BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX |
| 2— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 7— MIL MASCARAS
242, Mexico City, Mexico |
| 3— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 8— BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN |
| 4— NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA | 9— HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA |
| 5— DAVID VON ERICH
247, Denton, TX | 10— GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA |

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 4—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
- 5—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
- 6—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
- 7—**KERRY VON ERICH**
251, Denton, TX
- 8—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—**BOB BACKLUND**
242, Princeton, MN
- 10—**SCOTT CASEY**
235, Amarillo, TX

MOST HATED

- 1—**HACKSAW REED**
249, Kansas City, MO
- 2—**RON BASS**
285, Pampa, FL
- 3—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 4—**MR. SAITO**
247, Japan
- 5—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 6—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 7—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 8—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 9—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**JACK & JERRY BRISCO**
Combined Weight: 455 pounds
- 2—**KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL**
Combined Weight: 710 pounds
- 3—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined Weight: 567 pounds
- 4—**ELIJAH AKEEM & KAREEM MUHAMMAD**
Combined Weight: 578 pounds
- 5—**TERRY ALLEN & HACKSAW DUGGAN**
Combined Weight: 525 pounds
- 6—**THE FREEBIRDS**
Combined Weight: 791 pounds*
- 7—**THE SAMOANS**
Combined Weight: 598 pounds
- 8—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
Combined Weight: 479 pounds
- 9—**THE MASKED MEDICS**
Combined Weight: 477 pounds
- 10—**BUZZ TYLER & BULLDOG BOB BROWN**
Combined Weight: 584 pounds

*Combined weights reflect three team members

NWA

- World Champion:**
HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
- 1—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
 - 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX
 - 3—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX
 - 4—**BRETT WAYNE**
242, St. Petersburg, FL
 - 5—**RUFUS R. JONES**
287, Boston, MA
 - 6—**MIKE ROTONDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
 - 7—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
 - 8—**SUPER DESTROYER**
271, parts unknown
 - 9—**BOB ARMSTRONG**
229, Marietta, GA
 - 10—**CARLOS COLON**
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico

AWA

- World Champion:**
NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
320, Venice Beach, CA
 - 2—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
248, Minneapolis, MN
 - 3—**MAD DOG VACHON**
225, Algeria
 - 4—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
 - 5—**MR. SAITO**
247, Osaka, Japan
 - 6—**KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR
 - 7—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
 - 8—**CRUSHER BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA
 - 9—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robinsdale, MN
 - 10—**DAVID SHULTZ**
265, Memphis, TN

CIAL G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:

BOB BACKLUND

242, Princeton, MN

- 1—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**
282, Atlanta, GA
- 2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 3—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
- 4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Paris Island, SC
- 5—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
- 6—**IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran
- 7—**TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
- 8—**ROCKY JOHNSON**
244, Washington, DC
- 9—**IVAN PUTSKI**
242, Krakow, Poland
- 10—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC

GEORGIA

- 1—**BRETT WAYNE**
242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2—**JAKE ROBERTS**
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 3—**MR. WRESTLING II**
232, Atlanta, GA
- 4—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 5—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—**PEZ WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
- 7—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 8—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
- 9—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 10—**KING KONG BUNDY**
420, Atlantic City, NJ

FLORIDA

- 1—**MIKE ROTONDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 2—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**RON BASS**
285, Pampa, TX
- 5—**MIKE GRAHAM**
232, Tampa, FL
- 6—**JOS LeDUC**
280, Godbout, Quebec
- 7—**ANGELO MOSCA**
309, Caledou, Ontario
- 8—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 10—**ANGELO MOSCA JR.**
234, Caledou, Ontario

MID-ATLANTIC

- 1—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
- 2—**RUFUS R. JONES**
287, Boston, MA
- 3—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
- 4—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**
245, Kansas City, KS
- 5—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 7—**THE GREAT KABUKI**
252, Singapore
- 8—**CHARLIE BROWN**
251, New York, NY
- 9—**BUGSY McGRAW**
245, New York, NY
- 10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX
- 3—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
254, Denton, TX
- 4—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
251, Denton, TX
- 6—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
- 7—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
- 8—**BUDDY ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK
- 9—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 10—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford on Avon, England

MID-SOUTH

- 1—**HACKSAW REED**
249, Kansas City, MO
- 2—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, New York, NY
- 3—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
- 4—**KING KONG BUNDY**
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 5—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
- 6—**MR. WRESTLING II**
232, Atlanta, GA
- 7—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 8—**TERRY ALLEN**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 9—**BORIS ZURKHOV**
239, Leningrad, Russia
- 10—**JOHNNY RICH**
230, Hendersonville, TN

SOUTHWEST

- 1—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
251, New York, NY
- 2—**SCOTT CASEY**
235, Amarillo, TX
- 3—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 4—**ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 5—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
255, Dunlap, KS
- 6—**KEN TIMBS**
235, Atlanta, GA
- 7—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
220, South Wales
- 8—**SHEEPHERDER WILLIAMS**
237, New Zealand
- 9—**AL PEREZ**
234, Tampa, FL
- 10—**BLACK GORDMAN**
234, Mexico

NORTHWEST

- 1—**DYNAMITE KID**
225, England
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**
245, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
- 5—**BILLY JACK**
245, Portland, OR
- 6—**THE ASSASSIN**
240, parts unknown
- 7—**AL MADRIL**
235, Los Angeles, CA
- 8—**MATT BORNE**
240, Milwaukie, OR
- 9—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Dallas, TX
- 10—**RON RITCHIE**
238, New York, NY



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BOCKWINKEL'S DIARY

(Continued from page 33)



bloodied and battered. The end of the match also found Nick Bockwinkel's hand raised in victory. Wahoo. McDaniel decided that the carnage had gone on long enough and he wearily dropped his campaign for the AWA World title.

The Bockwinkel-McDaniel rivalry (above) began when both men were in college. Bockwinkel was severely tested by Brad Rheingans (below).

SEPTEMBER 1983

The most shocking development of the month came when young Brad Rheingans wrestled Bockwinkel to a 20-minute draw in a televised match. Bockwinkel surprised all followers of the AWA wrestling scene by immediately granting Rheingans a title rematch.

"All my critics are so smart, they're so wise," Bockwinkel said in a recent interview, "they all thought that I'd avoid Rheingans after that match. Well, once again I've proven my critics wrong. I'll take on any worthy challenger to the title, I don't care how young or



inexperienced he is. Rheingans proved his worth by wrestling me to a draw, and he's earned a title shot in doing so. People are touting him as the next champion, a sleeper among the current crop of contenders. Well, they'll have to respect me even more when I take this

kid and teach him a lesson in wrestling that he'll never forget."

The title match in St. Paul found Nick Bockwinkel and Brad Rheingans wrestling to a draw—a rare occurrence for the AWA champion, and a great incentive for Rheingans to continue his campaign for the AWA title in the future.

OCTOBER 1983

As Nick Bockwinkel celebrates the first anniversary of his third title reign, he looks ahead to some very difficult challenges: Hulk Hogan has already signed for several title matches, Brad Rheingans will be looking for a rematch, Wahoo McDaniel is reportedly thinking about mounting another campaign for the title, and Otto Wanz will soon be returning to the United States to attempt to regain the title.

As these capsule reviews of the last 12 months indicate, the life of the AWA World champion is not an easy one. The champion is a target of everyone in wrestling, and in order to maintain a certain level of integrity and respect, he must accept each of those challenges.

But Nick Bockwinkel's life is also filled with glory and financial reward. He's achieved a measure of success few men in the wrestling world have ever come close to, and he enjoys worldwide popularity.

In the life of the AWA World champion, there are days that seem like hell itself, and there are days in which the glory of being champion overwhelms any troubles he might feel at the time.

It's a life that Nick Bockwinkel fights very hard to keep; it's a life that Nick Bockwinkel wouldn't trade for any other. ☐

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

and Crusher Blackwell? Don't make me laugh. The Samoans? Not nearly as smart or as cunning. Steve Keirn and Stan Lane? Hawk and Animal would pound them into dust.

It doesn't matter where you look: AWA, NWA, WWF, or anywhere else in the world, you can't find a team that can even come close to The Road Warriors in terms of size, skill, and raw strength.

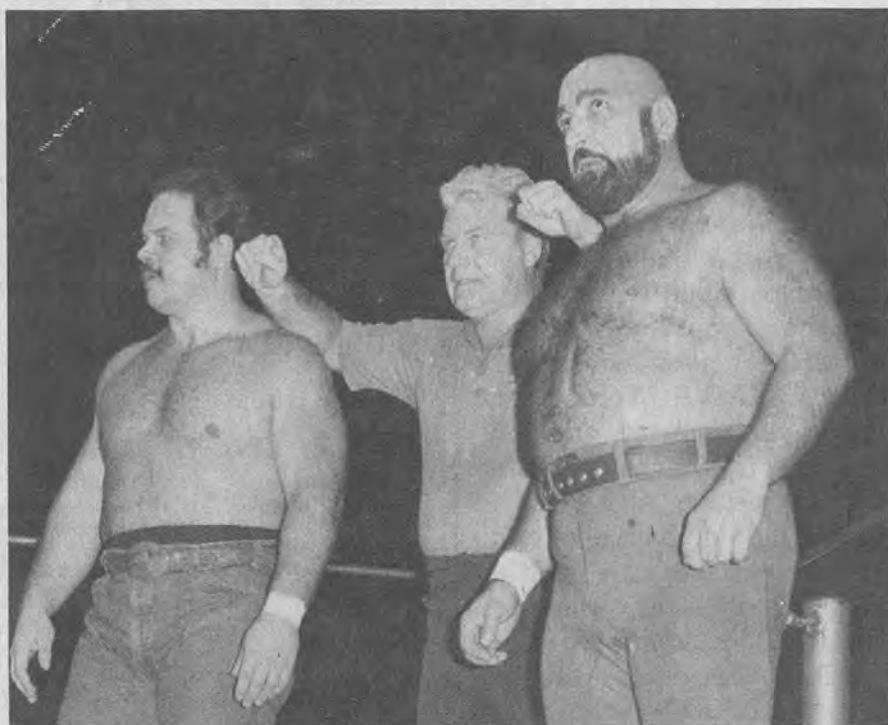
Quite simply, The Road Warriors are the best tag team ever to

DILLON'S A LIAR!

Does anyone know what's going on down here in Florida? Has anyone realized what kind of a snake J.J. Dillon is proving himself to be?

How many times have we heard it? "I'm managing Ron Bass exclusively." I've heard Dillon say that until he's blue in the face.

But if Dillon is only managing Bass, what is the deal with Gentleman Jim Holiday? Am I supposed to believe that Holliday has enough money to handle Jos LeDuc's con-



J.J. Dillon rests his arms on the shoulders of Ron Bass and Jos LeDuc. Has Dillon broken his contractual obligation to manage Bass exclusively? See "We Accuse" on page 12 to find out *Sports Review Wrestling's* editorial standpoint.

step into the squared circle. Let's see some well-deserved articles on them soon.

EDDIE THOMAS
Philadelphia

[Editor's note: Two of our sister publications have already featured major articles on The Road Warriors. See the December 1983 issue of Inside Wrestling and the January 1984 issue of The Wrestler for full-length stories on Hawk and Animal.]

tract, Elijah Akeem's contract, Kareem Muhammad's contract, and still have enough money left over to bring Abdullah the Butcher into the state?

You can bet your life that J.J. Dillon, the man with the money, is the man behind Holliday and his so-called empire.

And if that's the case, I hope Ron Bass wakes up and slaps Dillon with a lawsuit big enough to
(Continued on page 52)

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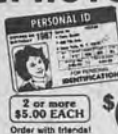
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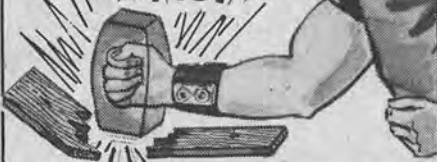
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P.O. Box 1164, Bellmore, N.Y. 11710

MAILBAG

(Continued from page 50)

cripple Dillon's grip on Florida. Dillon is playing with financial fire, and I have a hunch that it's going to be Bass who pours a little gasoline on the flames.

Me? I'll just sit back and enjoy the blaze.

TIM MCKINLEY
Tampa, FL

A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

I'm sick of all the attention girls give the Von Erichs. They're not close to being great, but the girls



Kerry Von Erich and his brothers are extremely popular with the women, and reader Chip Sheraton can't understand why.

don't care about that. I'm sick of going to arenas and hearing the girls sigh at those three bums.

Even my girlfriend is one of those idiots. I keep telling her that looks are one thing and wrestling ability is another. Does she listen to me? Of course not. She's too busy concentrating on her favorite, Kerry, to listen to logic.

Why can't girls learn to appreciate real tag teams instead of pretty boy losers? If girls had any brains, they'd root for The Freebirds.

CHIP SHERATON
Houston

SCARED OF SULLIVAN

I live in the Mid-Atlantic area, and I resent the fact that Kevin Sullivan is coming here to infect us with his wretched beliefs about Satanism and the black arts.

Not only is Sullivan coming, but he's got The Purple Haze coming in here with him as well. I've read all the stories about what they've done in Florida, and I'm not looking forward to them coming here.

The last thing I want is to see some of my favorite wrestlers, like Roddy Piper and Jimmy Valiant, having to deal with Sullivan and his treachery. I know that Piper and Valiant could pin Sullivan in less than five minutes, but let's face it, Sullivan influenced Jake Roberts, and he brought The Purple Haze into his fold. Who could even



Kevin Sullivan, holding a piece of wood, and The Purple Haze are stirring up trouble in the Mid-Atlantic.

guess what kind of influence he might have on Piper or Valiant?

No, I don't like Sullivan coming here at all.

CAROLINE MARCUS
Roanoke, VA □

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PWI/July 80
Color Starshot: The Sheik



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Color Starshot: Koloff & Smirnoff



PWI/Jan 81
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PWI/May 81
Color Poster: Mr. Wrestling II



PWI/Oct 81
Color Poster: Ted DiBiase



PWI/Jan 82
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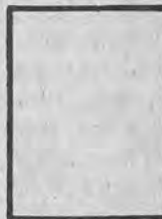
PWI/Nov 83
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PWI/Dec 83
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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

give me a title shot in the AWA. He's so tied up with trying to humiliate Brad Rheingans [who a short time ago embarrassed the champion by holding him to a draw on TV], he's not even considering any offers for a title match. So I thought I'd take a side trip to St. Louis for a change."

Race retained the title when he was disqualified for flipping Hogan over the top rope.

—Buddy Ford

CCHARLOTTE, NC—Manager Gary Hart has taken on the task of advising Mid-Atlantic newcomers Kevin Sullivan and The Purple Haze.

"I'm not working with them in the gym or trying to alter their style in any way," Hart says. "It's

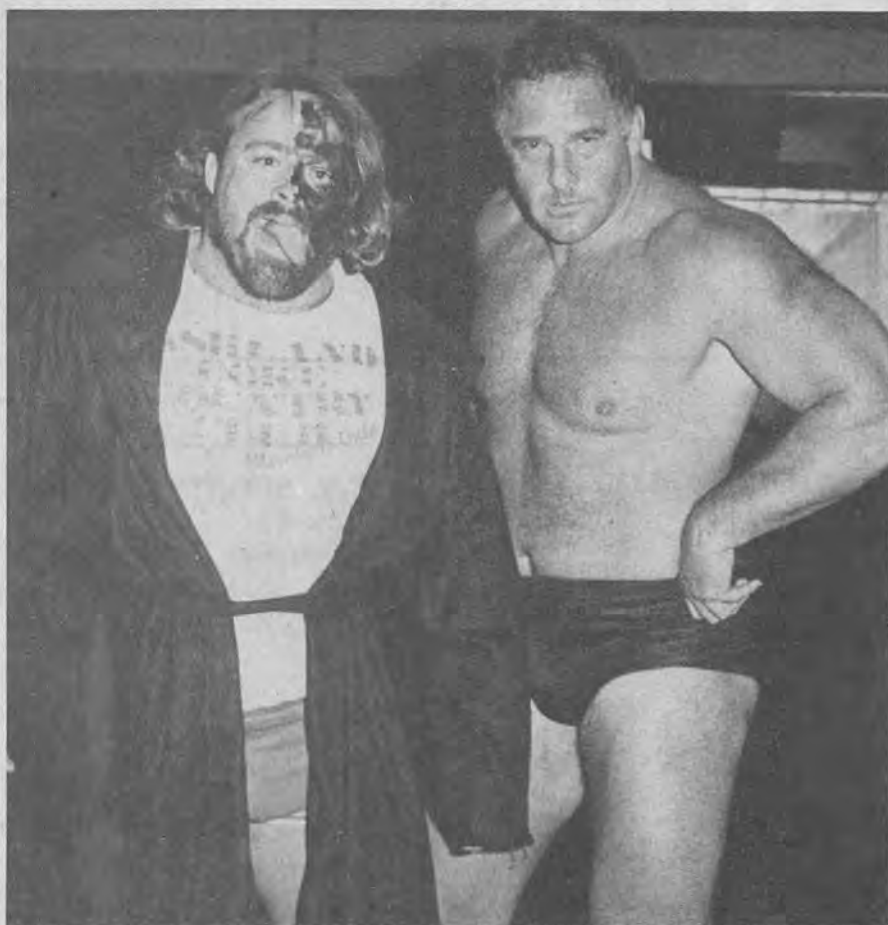
more a matter of providing them with some insights on how to defeat clowns like Bugsy McGraw and Roddy Piper and Rufus R. Jones. Sullivan and the Haze have their own styles, and I don't want to tamper with them at all."

Does Hart have any fears about being so closely involved with two men who embrace the ideals of satanism?

"No, not at all," Hart said. "What they believe is their own business. I'm not the kind of guy who's influenced easily by the beliefs of others, so I'm not worried about that at all."

Apparently Hart is alone in that opinion. Already several petitions from the fans have reached Mid-Atlantic officials pleading that Sullivan and the Haze not be allowed to compete in the area.

—Ellen Larson



KEVIN SULLIVAN & THE PURPLE HAZE



THE IRON SHEIK

NEW YORK, NY—Manager Fred Blassie is claiming that The Iron Sheik should be viewed as a top contender for the WWF title.

"The Sheik deserves a title shot immediately," Blassie said. "Last time he was in the WWF, a couple of years ago, he had to win a battle royal in order to get a title match. This time there will be no stipulation. The Iron Sheik has proven himself time and time again all around the world, and Bob Backlund is only proving his lack of character by trying to avoid him!"

Backlund's manager, Arnold Skoaland, noted that "Masked Superstar is the number one contender right now, and that's the match that we're concentrating on. If Blassie wants a title match for The Iron Sheik, let him show that Sheik is the number one contender and deserving of a title shot. Then we'll talk."

—Allison Corey ☐

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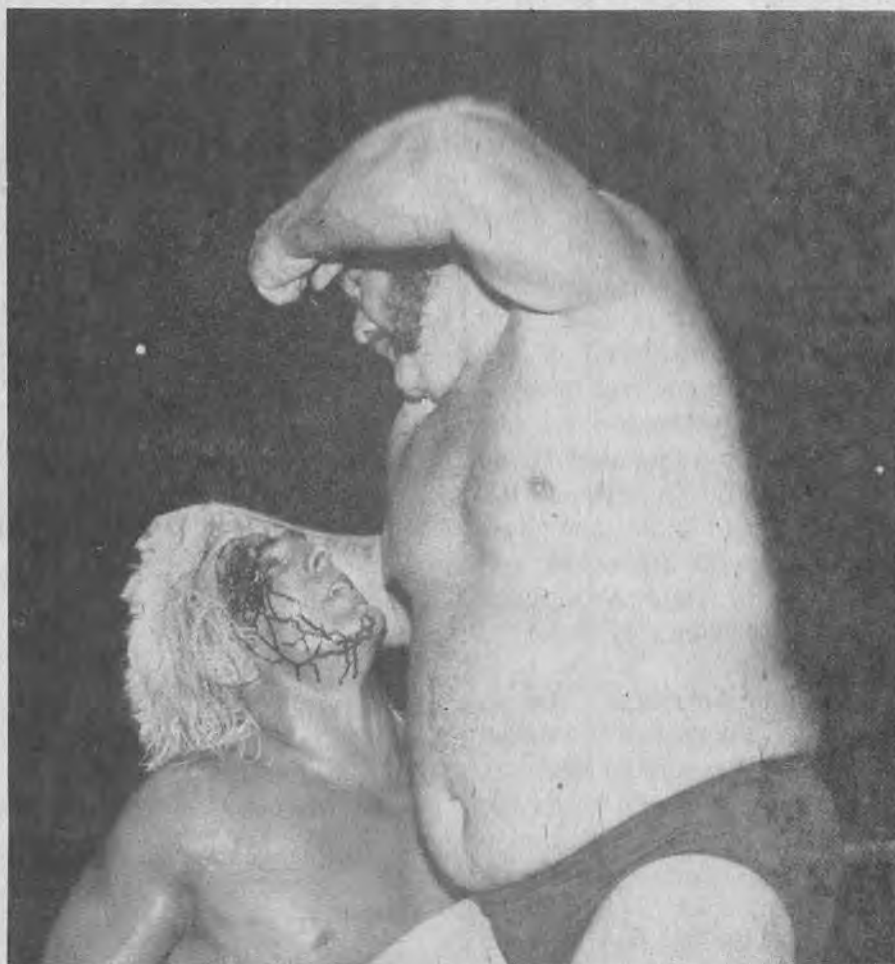
(Continued from page 10)

gets to the top of the cage and he just stands there. I was amazed at his balance. I know I wouldn't be able to stand up there that long. I think that was his mistake. He gave Backlund time to recover. He jumped off the top of the cage, but Backlund moved out of the way just in time. The crowd went crazy. I had never seen anything like it."

Bobby O'Donnell, Houston: "I still say that Mil Mascaras should be the AWA World champion. I saw him beat Nick Bockwinkel. I've always hated Bockwinkel, and I hate his manager, Bobby Heenan, even more. Mil had Bockwinkel pinned, but, as usual, Bockwinkel had knocked the referee out to try to keep his title by disqualification. Chavo Guerrero came in and made

the three-count. I know that Chavo isn't an AWA referee, but the officials at ringside could see that Bockwinkel was pinned. It should have counted. Watching Mascaras celebrate after the match, holding the belt up over his head, was the most exciting thing I've ever seen in wrestling. Too bad the decision didn't stick. It should have."

Adelina DeGregorio, St. Louis: "The best part about living in St. Louis is that I get to see the best wrestling in the world. I think the most exciting thing I've ever seen in the ring was watching Harley Race beat Ric Flair to win his seventh NWA World title. I actually watched sports history being made. It was a tough match for both Race and Flair, and I honestly



Harley Race aims his left fist at Ric Flair's open facial wound in their June NWA World title match. Adelina DeGregorio of St. Louis calls Race's record-breaking victory "the most exciting thing I've ever seen in the ring."

think that on that night they both put in the best efforts of their careers. Someone has to win, though, and I'm glad it was Harley. I've been following his career for years. He has incredible courage. I think he's the gutsiest competitor in sports today. That was the most exciting moment I've ever seen in sports, and I was there when the Cardinals beat the Yankees in the 1964 World Series."

Frank DiSica, Northbrook, IL:
"Years ago, I was in Chicago to see a two-ring Battle Royal at the International Amphitheatre. The people from ABC's *Wide World Of Sports* were there, reporters and photographers were there; it was an event. I didn't know where to look first. Two rings full of wrestlers. Billy Graham, Verne and Greg Gagne, Nick Bockwinkel—there were so many I can't even remember the others. It was great. I'll never forget it." □

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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 12)

"puppet manager" to carry out his own managerial wishes.

We accuse J.J. Dillon of bankrolling Gentleman Jim Holliday and of breaking his contractual agreement with Ron Bass.

"What you're saying is absolutely absurd," Dillon responded when we reached him at his office in Tampa, Florida. "I am a man of honor, a respectable individual in the professional wrestling world. Why would I risk my reputation to support someone like Holliday?"

Allowed Rotondo to take the title?

"Exactly," Dillon replied. "I can't very well work with Ron if he's on the road all the time defending the belt, can I? As soon as our work together is done, he'll get a match with Rotondo, recapture the belt, and hold on to the Southern title for years!"

But what about his reported financial dealings with Holliday and the possible breach of contract with Bass?



Gentleman Jim Holliday holds one of the Global tag team belts between Kareem Muhammad and Elijah Akeem. Though Holliday is listed as the official manager of the team, there is speculation that Dillon is the actual manager.

Perhaps because Ron Bass hasn't been as successful as Dillon had hoped. Bass recently lost the Southern title to Mike Rotondo, and several attempts at regaining the title have resulted in failure. He is not scheduled to receive another title match. With Bass the exclusive charge of Dillon, the manager's reputation is not exactly soaring.

"All scurrilous lies!" Dillon cried. "What Gentleman Jim does with his own money and his own time is his own business. I've been working very closely with Ron Bass, we're in the process of making some alterations in his wrestling style, and this is the reason why he allowed Rotondo to take the Southern title."

"I don't want to talk about it," Dillon responded. "I've said all I'm going to say about it, and that's the end of it!"

Clearly Dillon is unwilling to even discuss the issue. It appears that he may in fact have backed himself into a corner. If he is indeed bankrolling Holliday, he would be open to legal prosecution.

If Dillon can't secure another title match for Bass against Rotondo soon, and if he can't guide him win back to the championship, Bass may indeed be willing to file a lawsuit against his own manager.

Should that happen, depending on the severity of the lawsuit, it could spell the end of Dillon's managerial career forever. □

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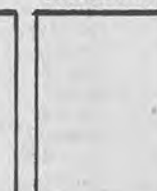
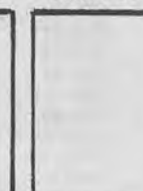
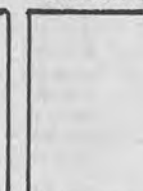
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ANDRE VS. ABDULLAH

(Continued from page 35)



Abdullah pulls Andre to the ropes by his hair (above left). Once the Butcher has Andre on the mat, his size disadvantage becomes less of a factor (above right). Rarely will Andre be driven to the level of violence he was against the Butcher (below).



sume the Giant's unique superstar status. The world might laugh at his antics, condemn him as a lunatic, but they would have to fear him. Abdullah labored to be at his best for this battle.

As for Andre, he was stunned when he saw the contract. He never expected to see any of those contracts or Abdullah again. He was also a bit stunned to see how small his purse, in pre-inflation dollars, would be. What had seemed like a

princely sum to him then couldn't get a good preliminary man in the ring now. He wondered if he could renegotiate the contract and get more money. Then he realized how long it had been between matches and decided not to risk having the bout canceled. Andre accepted the fact that the promoter was not only getting the match of the decade but also the deal of the decade.

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Bithorn Stadium. The fans knew this was going to be a match they'd long remember. Few suspected, however, that it's bloody climax would occur where none could see.

From the beginning, Abdullah was out for blood. Almost instantly, a plastic knife appeared from within the bandages wrapping his hands. He gouged at his opponent, trying to open a wound in Andre's forehead. Abdullah hoped the Giant's blood would pour into his eyes and blind him. It took all of Andre's skill and strength to escape the bloodbath.

The action in the ring was wild and furious. It was astounding that men so large could move so quickly. Within minutes, the ring proved too small to contain the battle. The two men spilled over the ropes and onto the stadium grass.

Undaunted, they continued their war there. It was an ugly and brutal affair, a furious exhibition of wrestling intensity. The referee disqualified them both for staying outside the ring, but that didn't matter to either man. They continued to brawl, 10 years of rage and hatred finally being released.

Then Andre picked up a huge plank of walkway and hurled it at Abdullah. That was all Abdullah had to see to send him galloping back to the dressing room. Andre was right on his heels.

The two ran into a dressing room. The door was locked so no one could follow. Reporters outside heard the sounds of bodies banging against walls, screams of agony and grunts of combat. Finally, there was a horrible silence.

The door opened. Bloody but smiling, Andre stumbled out. Equally bloody and semiconscious, Abdullah lay splayed out on the dressing room floor. The winner in this most private of battles was Andre the Giant.

From the look of things, it'll be another 10 years before Abdullah challenges Andre again. ☐

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RIC FLAIR

(Continued from page 37)



Of primary importance to any wrestler in a slump is the need to know that he can take punishment and still come back to win. Blackwell, one of sport's strongest men, tested Flair severely.

near as I can figure. There isn't a reporter in the world who doesn't have it happen to him."

Flair nodded, not quite sure he believed the reporter. Ric was convinced he was the only one who had ever gone through what he was going through. Everyone realizes there comes a time when a slump is inevitable. When you go through it, though, you can't believe it'll ever end.

The next night, Flair prepared himself to meet the always dangerous Crusher Blackwell. In the dressing room, Ric endlessly checked his garb, exercised away his tensions, and readied for battle. There was a skittish look in his eyes, the kind you see in a pony forced to run across unfamiliar terrain. When you're going bad, the

last person you want to wrestle is Crusher Blackwell.

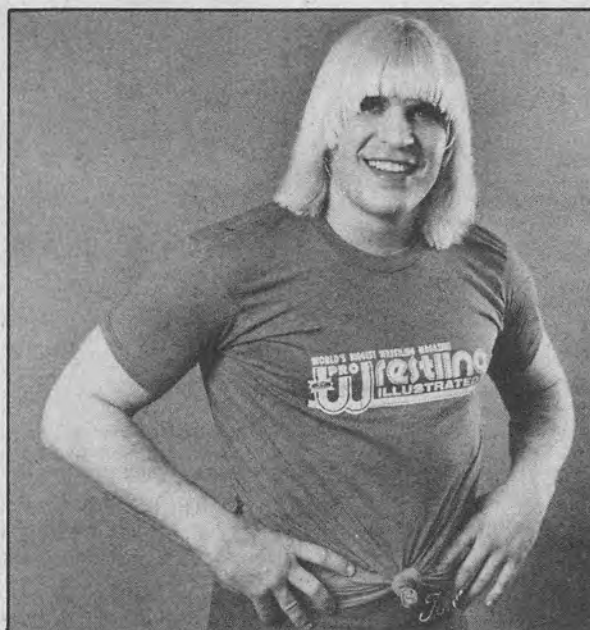
In the ring, Blackwell loomed. His very stance declared he knew Flair was wrestling at less than his best. Blackwell intended to inflict more than a loss on his opponent. He knew the fame and opportunity he'd earn if he could batter Flair into a hospital bed.

Flair entered the ring. There was a look of acceptance on his face now, as if he was prepared for whatever hand fate would deal him. The bell rang. Blackwell lumbered toward his opponent. Flair stood ready for the attack.

Even after watching videotapes of the match, it's impossible to see exactly when the turning point occurred. In the beginning of the battle, Blackwell dominated. Slowly

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Tommy Rich

but surely, however, Flair started gaining the advantage. His moves were lightning quick and astoundingly effective. Blackwell grew more and more desperate. His rule-breaking became more apparent, though it never became effective. Eventually, Flair dominated the action. It was a magnificent exhibition of wrestling excellence, the kind Flair feared he'd never execute again.

Blackwell, in his rage and frustration, grew sloppy. After being warned time and again by the referee about illegal tactics, Blackwell was eventually disqualified. Flair's hand, raised in triumph, contracted into a fist that Ric waved in the air. Ric Flair was back.

In the dressing room, Flair was ecstatic. "I'm wrestling like a champion again!" he enthused. "I was great tonight! It all worked again. Tonight Crusher Blackwell, tomorrow Harley Race."

And for the first time in a long time, Ric Flair laughed. ☐

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Yes now, even if you have been thin for years, you can have the fuller, more attractive body you have always wanted without dangerous drugs, without heart-straining exercise, without unpleasant tasting medicines!

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HERE'S ALL YOU DO

Before meals, or whenever you feel like it, you take delicious, chewable, nutritionally fortified GAIN tablets and that's it! No other medication to take. Nothing difficult or unpleasant to do, and without even being aware of it, a wonderfully exciting change takes place.

Those high-calorie GAIN tablets are rich in body-building materials! They not only add weight themselves, but they sharpen your appetite! You look forward to meal-times, and without even realizing it, you start to eat more and almost immediately the weight gaining process begins!

As you follow your GAIN Plan which includes nutritional high calorie mepus. You add pounds and inches to your arms, legs, chest, hips, everywhere. You'll be amazed at the fantastic transformation that occurs... as thin, unattractive areas start to develop into new, magnetic appeal. You'll be

SKINNY MEN AND WOMEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE



... a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give the GAIN Plan a chance to help build you up and put firm flesh on you.

thrilled to discover that as you gain weight you will have more pep and energy for all the wonderful things in life!

THINK OF WHAT THIS CAN MEAN TO YOU

If you are one of those unfortunate people who can't wear all the new high style clothes you want to wear... if you are ashamed of the way you look in a bathing suit... embarrassed because your legs are too thin and spindly... your chest is too flat... your arms aren't the full, rounded limbs they were meant to be... If you long for a more attractive-looking body, the safe, pleasant GAIN Plan can be the answer to your prayers!

Yes, now, with the GAIN Plan to help, it's so easy, so pleasant to add pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh... so full-filling to feel better, stronger, more vital and alive! But don't take our word for it. Prove it to yourself at our risk!

If you sincerely want to gain weight, and to look better and feel better as a result,

HERE IS OUR OFFER...

We honestly believe the GAIN Plan to be the finest and most effective product of its type sold anywhere in the world today, and to prove our confidence, we are backing that statement up with this honest, straight-forward offer...

Try the fabulous new GAIN Plan in your

GAIN IS SAFE

GAIN is not a dangerous drug, medicine or a fishy-tasting oil. It is made of safe, pure ingredients, contains nothing which could possibly harm you, and may even be taken with complete safety by children.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Send for the GAIN Plan today. Try it for 7 days entirely at our risk. If, at the end of 7 days, you haven't started to gain pounds and inches and to look better and to feel better... If you aren't convinced the GAIN Plan is a safe, pleasant, way to gain weight, don't keep it! Return the empty bottle and get your money back immediately, no questions asked!

VITAL NOTE

A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt... even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and a least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

What could be fairer than that? The next move is up to you. Once and for all, determine to do something about your underweight! We know you'll be happy you did.

MAIL NO-RISK COUPON TODAY

GAIN PRODUCTS CORP. Dept G791
Box 2346, Carbondale, Ill. 62901

Please send my package of GAIN Plan immediately with the understanding that if I am not satisfied, I may have my money back, no questions asked.

- ☐ One GAIN PLAN for \$9.98
☐ SAVE \$2.00! Order 2 for \$17.96
☐ SAVE \$5.00! Order 3 for \$25.00

Enclosed is \$

☐ cash, ☐ check or ☐ money order

NAME _____ please print

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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Easy to learn—Easy to do—Easy on You!*

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You're "in business" ready to earn \$5 to \$12.50 an hour a few days after you begin Foley-Belsaw's shortcut training. Take advantage of today's unprecedented opportunities in locksmithing for year-round EXTRA INCOME in spare time—or fulltime in a high-profit business of your own. Hundreds we've trained have done it. So can YOU! All tools plus professional Key Machine given you with course. These plus practice materials and equipment, plus simple, illustrated lessons, plus expert supervision, plus business-building guidance will enable you to KEEP THE MONEY COMING IN! Ideal for retirement—good jobs, too.

SEND FOR EXCITING FACTS—No Obligation

Discover what's in Locksmithing for you—how Foley-Belsaw's Master Locksmith-approved training can give you the skill you can depend on to EARN MORE—ENJOY LIFE MORE.

No Extra Cost!



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Training Covers all phases of Burglar, Hold-Up and Fire Alarm servicing and installation. This valuable and timely instruction includes all special tools and supplies. ONLY Foley-Belsaw offers such extensive training in this rapidly expanding field as a part of your Locksmith training.

ADVANCED Locksmithing!

How to change combinations, install and service Safe, Vault and Bank Safe-Deposit Box locks. You learn-by-doing on the locks that we supply. You'll find it fascinating and highly profitable work.



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Your
Own
Boss!**

BE A LOCKSMITH!

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"Before enrolling I checked other courses and also asked for advice from several locksmiths in my area. They all said yours was tops and has the most versatile Key Machine."

"I always wanted to be in business for myself and now I am... thanks to Foley-Belsaw Institute."



David Fairbrother—Dave's Locksmith Service
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209



"I opened my own business, spare time, seven months after I enrolled and made a profit of \$329 for the first week."
B. A. Deberry Littleton, Colorado

"No more hard, nasty work for me. Now I have my own business and with hardly any effort I average around \$50 a day. Thanks for my new start in life."

Sam Walker Prichard, Alabama



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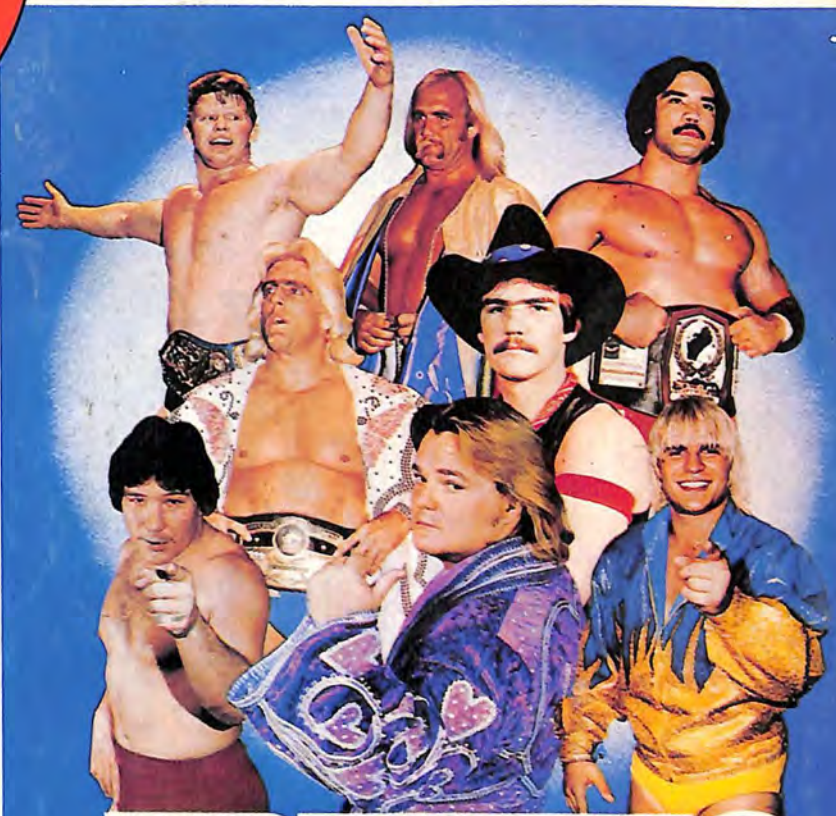
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